



BATMAN

STRANGE APPARITIONS



ISBN 1 56389 500 5

BATMAN

STRANGE APPARITIONS



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DICK GIORDANO
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BATMAN: STRANGE APPARITIONS

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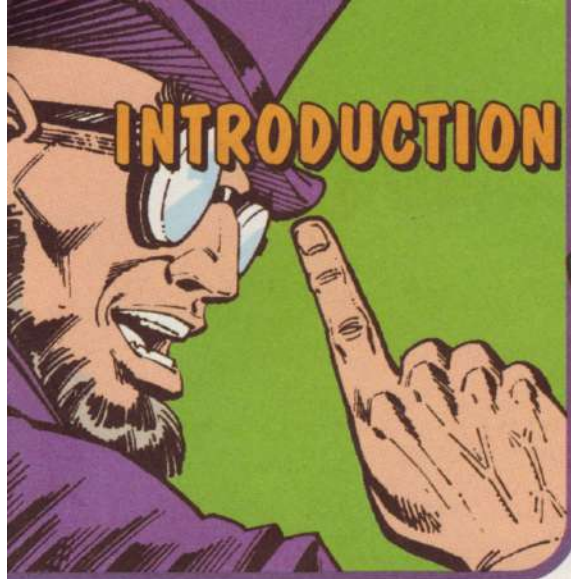
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INTRODUCTION BY STEVE ENGLEHART

T

hey tell me this collection is called "Strange Apparitions" because the stories have a ghost in them, but they could just as easily be talking about the stories themselves.

In the mid-1970s DC was at a low ebb in its fortunes.

Despite the presence of serious star talent—Denny O’Neil, Jack Kirby and Julie Schwartz come immediately to mind—Marvel was winning the comics wars. Denny and Neal Adams had garnered awards with Green Lantern and Batman, but fans were flocking to Spider-Man. Inevitably, DC people—like Neal and Gil Kane—were being drawn across town, too. And just as inevitably, DC hired a new publisher, Jenette Kahn, to fight back. Among the first things she did was try to hire Marvel people over to her side: John Buscema and me. But Marvel outbid her for Buscema. So then there was just me.

She wanted me to revamp the Justice League characters, and I was game, but I had two conditions: I wanted to do the Batman all by himself as well, and I wanted to do all this in just one year, because I’d decided to go to Europe and quit comics forever. So I started writing the JLA as a monthly double-size strip—the only time that’s been done, still—and what I expected to be my swan song: Batman in DETECTIVE COMICS.

The art was going to be handled by Walt Simonson and Al Milgrom, both big Bat-fans, and it was going to be done "Marvel style": my plot, Walt’s pencils, my dialogue. But after the first two issues there was some problem and editor Julie Schwartz had to find a new art team. I had a time limit before fleeing the country, so I switched over to "DC Style": script in advance. I was unused to that, having been a Marvel guy, but I discovered that it allowed me to control the pacing of my stories exactly, and with Batman, so heavy on atmospherics, that worked to the stories’ benefit. So I wrote scripts without knowing who would draw them, but with the lurking fear that since DC was so short on stars, it probably wouldn’t be anybody good.

Eight months later, my wife Terry and I were living in Mallorca. We got a package from Julie with the finished books. And like everybody else, we encountered the first *strange apparition*: the gorgeous, absolutely right-on art of Marshall Rogers and Terry Austin. And we read the letters proclaiming this series the "definitive" Batman. It was a hell of a goodbye gift from the comics gods.





Fast forward ten years: I was out of comics for six of them but had learned that whatever else I did, I just liked comics, so I'd come back to write for the resurgent DC. Then I got a call from Jenette. It seems that when those DETECTIVES appeared, Mike Uslan, producer of the *Swamp Thing* film, told an interviewer he could see for the first time how to do a *Batman* film. In the ten years since, he had tried, first as an independent and later in association with Warner Bros., to capture what he'd seen. A series of scripts involving Silver St. Cloud, Boss Thorne, and a truly insane Joker had been generated by Hollywood's finest writers, but somehow they weren't working. So in 1986 I was asked to return to the *Batman*. I wrote two treatments (plots) and argued (unsuccessfully, I thought at the time) against including Robin and the Penguin. Three years later a nice amalgam of these stories

and the treatments, enhanced by Sam Hamm and Tim Burton, hit the screen (with Kim Basinger's Silver called Vicki Vale since Silver had been out of print for thirteen years). That was the second, and arguably strangest, *strange apparition*.

Right around that time these stories were reprinted as *SHADOW OF THE BATMAN*, for the third *strange apparition*. But that was before the days of permanent collections, so after a while they vanished again. Some were reprinted in *THE GREATEST BATMAN STORIES EVER TOLD*, *THE GREATEST JOKER* ditto, and *JOKER: STACKED DECK* (fourth, fifth, and sixth s.a.). Some or all showed up in foreign editions, including a beautiful one from Finland (I won't even try to count those). But mostly you needed the back-issue bin if you wanted the entire run, which people did. Twenty-five years later, it's still rare to meet a comics fan who doesn't ask me when they'll be back in print. And so I'm delighted to introduce you to their latest *strange apparition*.

Meanwhile, comics is an ongoing business. Just as Marshall and Terry arrived two issues after I did, they stuck around for a while after I left, working with other writers, including the legendary Len Wein. His Clayface story provides another classic villain with more delicious art, and puts a nice fillip on this beautiful package.





THE BATMAN

NO. 439

MAR.

30465

Detective COMICS



"NIGHT
OF THE
STALKER"



FEATURING



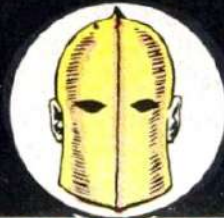
THE ATOM



HAWKMAN



THE ALL-NEW
MANHUNTER



DOCTOR FATE



KID ETERNITY

GOTHAM CITY! SETTING SUNLIGHT SLICES SHARPLY THROUGH THE DRY NOVEMBER AIR, BUT CANNOT CUT ITS CHILL. RUSH HOUR THROGS CROWDING THE STREETS PULL THEIR COATS TIGHTER AGAINST THIS FIRST TOUCH OF APPROACHING WINTER... YET ONE MAN, LOOMING HIGH ABOVE THEM ALL, CASUALLY SHRUGS AWAY THE COLD...

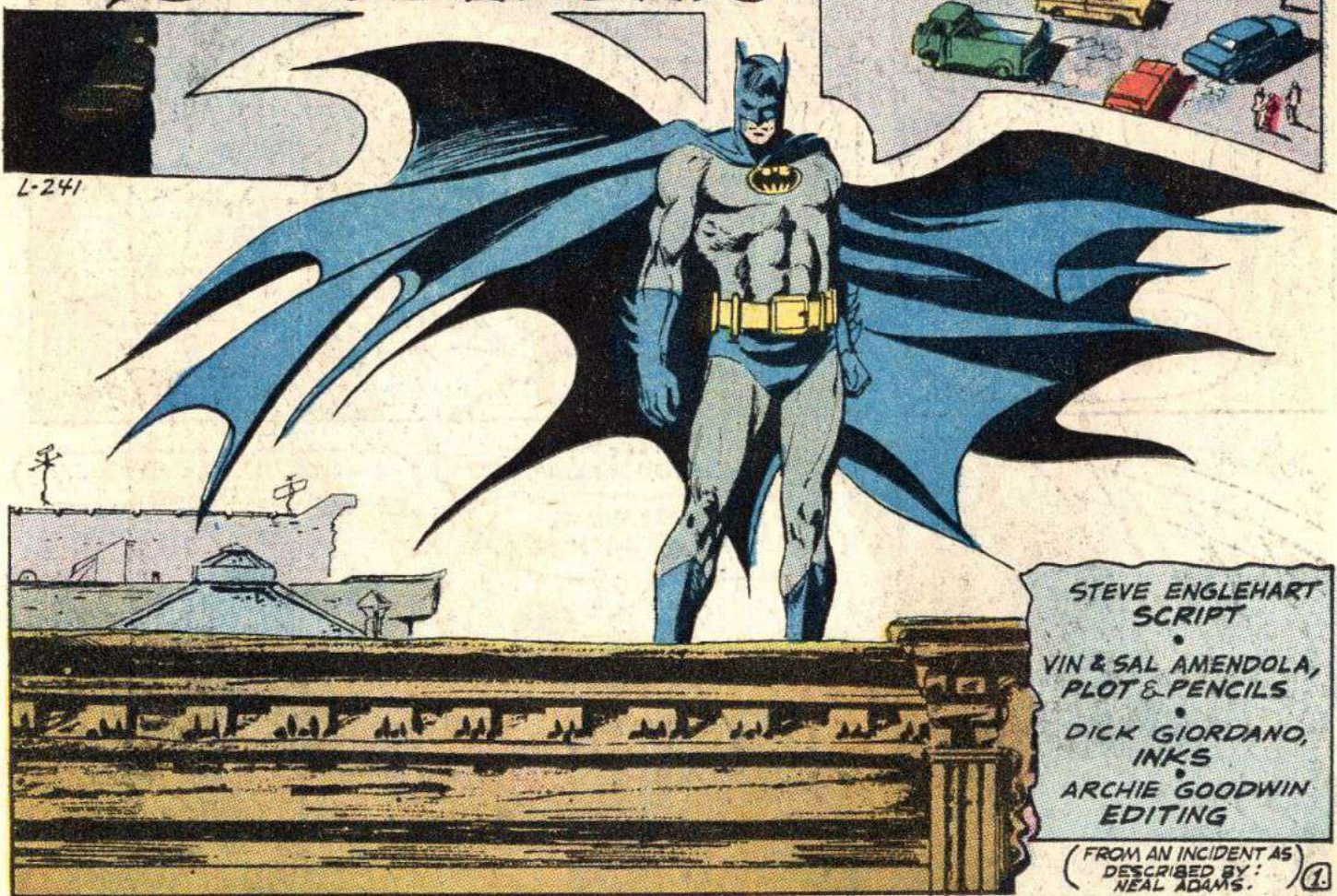
AS ALWAYS, HE KNOWS THE COMING DARKNESS WILL BRING A NEED FOR HIM--AND, AS ALWAYS, HE IS GRIMLY PREPARED--FOR HE IS THE DREAD...

BATMAN

...AND THIS WILL BE THE

NIGHT OF THE STALKER!

L-241



STEVE ENGLEHART
SCRIPT

VIN & SAL AMENDOLA,
PLOT & PENCILS

DICK GIORDANO,
INKS

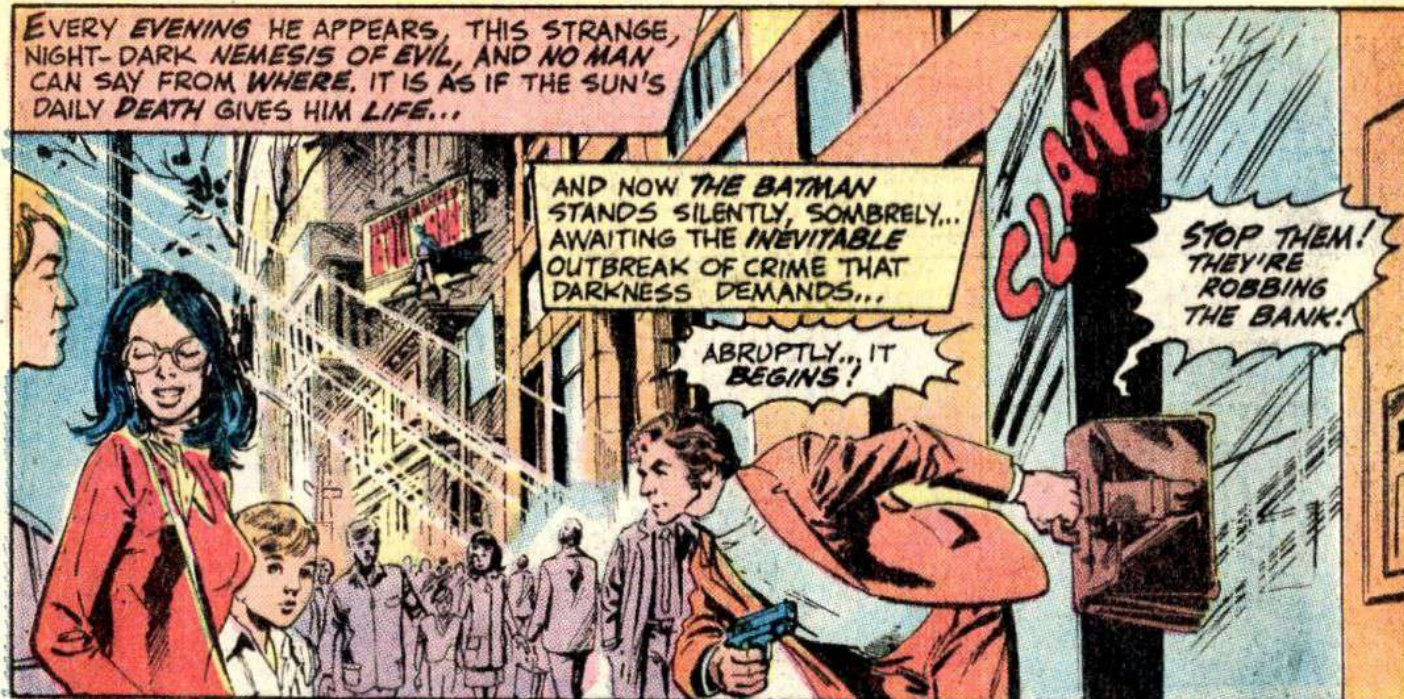
ARCHIE GOODWIN
EDITING

(FROM AN INCIDENT AS
DESCRIBED BY:
NEAL ADAMS.) ①

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EVERY EVENING HE APPEARS, THIS STRANGE, NIGHT-DARK NEMESIS OF EVIL, AND NO MAN CAN SAY FROM WHERE. IT IS AS IF THE SUN'S DAILY DEATH GIVES HIM LIFE...



AND NOW THE BATMAN STANDS SILENTLY, SOMBERLY... AWAITING THE INEVITABLE OUTBREAK OF CRIME THAT DARKNESS DEMANDS...

ABRUPTLY... IT BEGINS!

CLANG

STOP THEM! THEY'RE ROBBING THE BANK!



TED--LOOK OUT! THAT MAN'S GOT A GUN!

EEEEEE

OUTTA THE WAY! YOU'RE BLOCKIN' MY PATH TO THE CAR!



STOP SCREECHIN' LADY... MOVE!

OUTTA MY WAY!

KRAK

MOM!



YOU--YOU KILLED HER!

YOU ROTTEN SCUM, YOU KILLED MY WIFE!

I--DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT!

...BUT I HAD TO... SHE WAS IN MY WAY... KEPT SCREAMIN'!



THE EYES BEHIND THE DEEP BLUE COWL SNAP WIDE, HORROR SWIRLING MADLY IN THEIR SHADOWED DEPTHS--

--AND EVEN AS THE BATMAN LAUNCHES HIMSELF TOWARD THIS BLOODY TABLEAU LIKE THE PREDATOR HE IS--

--HIS THOUGHTS BRAND ANOTHER SCENE, ANOTHER TIME ACROSS THE INSIDE OF HIS EYES!



THAT NIGHT, IT WAS THOMAS WAYNE, HIS WIFE, AND SON ON THE SHADOWED GOTHAM STREET...



LEAVE HER ALONE, YOU--UNNNHHH!!

THOMAS!

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

BLAM! BLAM!

MARTHA WAYNE'S SCREAMS FOR HER MURDERED HUSBAND PANIC THE BANDIT! IN RAGING FEAR, HE SHOOTS HER, TOO, BEFORE FLEEING INTO THE MIST--

--ALL BEFORE THE HORRIFIED EYES OF YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE... HE WHO WILL VOW TO AVENGE THOSE MURDERS AS--

-- THE BATMAN!

AND NOW... IT IS HAPPENING AGAIN!

EVEN AS HE MOVES, A MAN, A WOMAN LIE DEAD, A BOY ORPHANED...

PAST AND PRESENT MINGLE... COLLIDE... IN ONE CONSTANT, OVERRIDING THOUGHT!

SOMEONE MUST PAY... MUST PAY!

RICK! WILL YOU MOVE IT, FOR CRIPES SAKE!

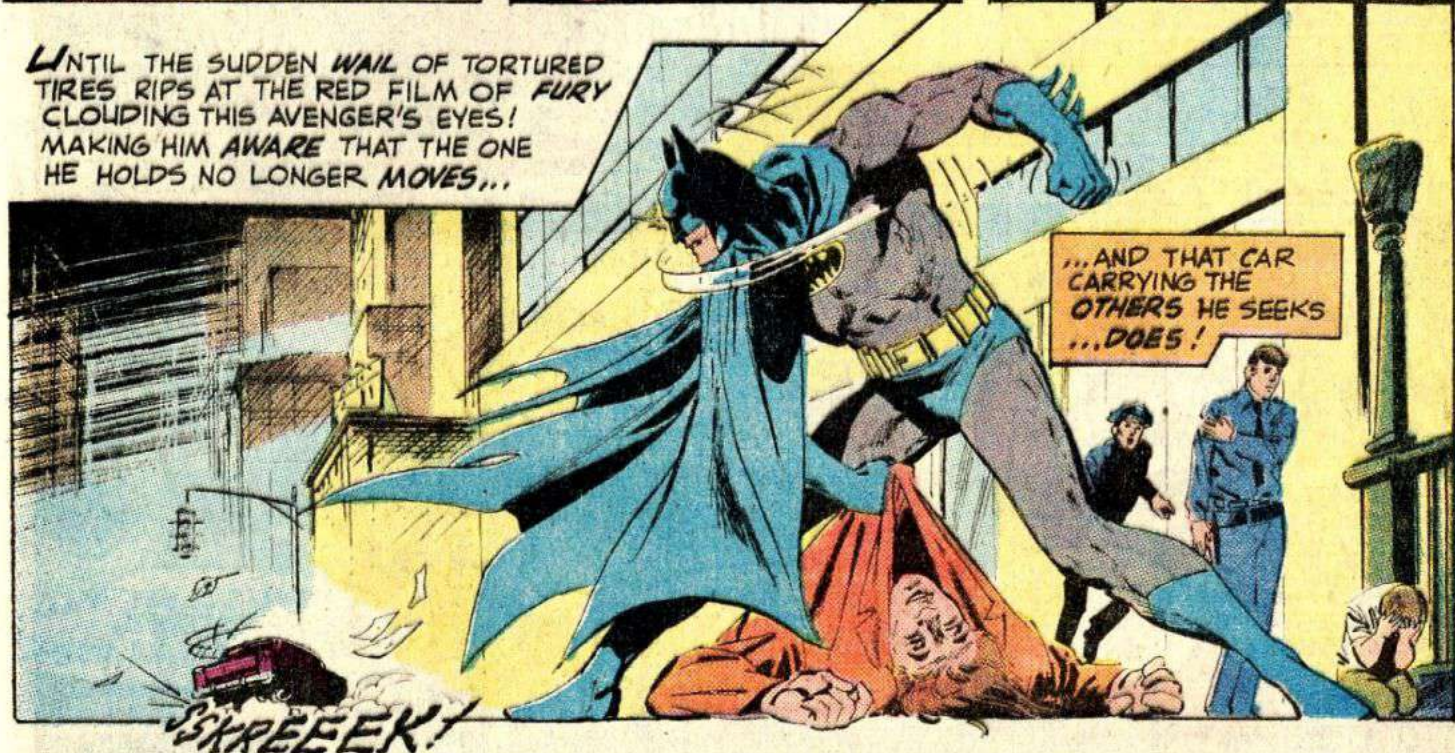
OKAY... OKAY, CANNON! BUT WITH THE GUARD DOWN--

--THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN STOP US!

UNFORTUNATE WORDS THOSE... AS IF INVITING...

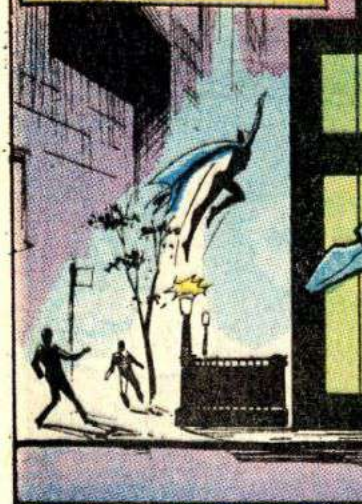


UNTIL THE SUDDEN WAIL OF TORTURED TIRES RIPS AT THE RED FILM OF FURY CLOUDING THIS AVENGER'S EYES! MAKING HIM AWARE THAT THE ONE HE HOLDS NO LONGER MOVES...



BUT CARS ARE BOUND TO TRAFFIC-CLOGGED STREETS...

THERE ARE NO SUCH RESTRICTIONS ON THE RAGE-DRIVEN BATMAN...



FLIGHT ALMOST SEEMS WITHIN HIS POWER AS SINEWY LEG MUSCLES SEND HIM SWIFTLY UPWARD...



FROM A LOW BALCONY, OVER A SERIES OF ROOF-TOPS...



...UNTIL HE'S COVERED
TWO BLOCKS IN THE TIME
IT TAKES TO TELL IT...

NOW THOSE LEG MUSCLES WORK IN REVERSE...

CUSHIONING
THE IMPACT
OF A DEATH-
DEFYING
LEAP...

--AND SIGHTED
HIS PREY!

LETTING HIM LAND ATOP
THE CAR WITH NO MORE
NOISE THAN A CAT!

SO MATTERS STAND AS THE SEDAN CAREENS
WILDLY OUT OF THE CITY.

WHY'D YOU HAVE TO
SHOOT THAT GUY,
CANNON?

WHY NOT?
HE COULD HAVE
DESCRIBED
RICK!

BESIDES,
RICK STARTED
IT!

WHAT
DIFFERENCE
DOES IT MAKE,
ANYWAY?

LIFE'S ONLY A GAME--
AND LOSERS GET
ELIMINATED!

BE HAPPY,
KID...WE'RE
WINNERS!

HAPPY! I NEVER
AGREED TO PLAY ANY
"GAME" WITH MURDER
IN IT!

LIKE IT OR NOT,
YOU'RE PLAYIN'!
NOW CLAM
UP!

I'M HAPPY
AND I DON'T
WANT ANY
MOANING
BRINGING
ME DOWN!

YEAH! I'LL BET
YOU'RE ECSTATIC,
YOU COLD, CALCULATING--

OH MY GOD! LOOK
AT THAT SHADOW!

THE
BATMAN'S
ON TOP OF THIS
CAR!

WHAT--?!



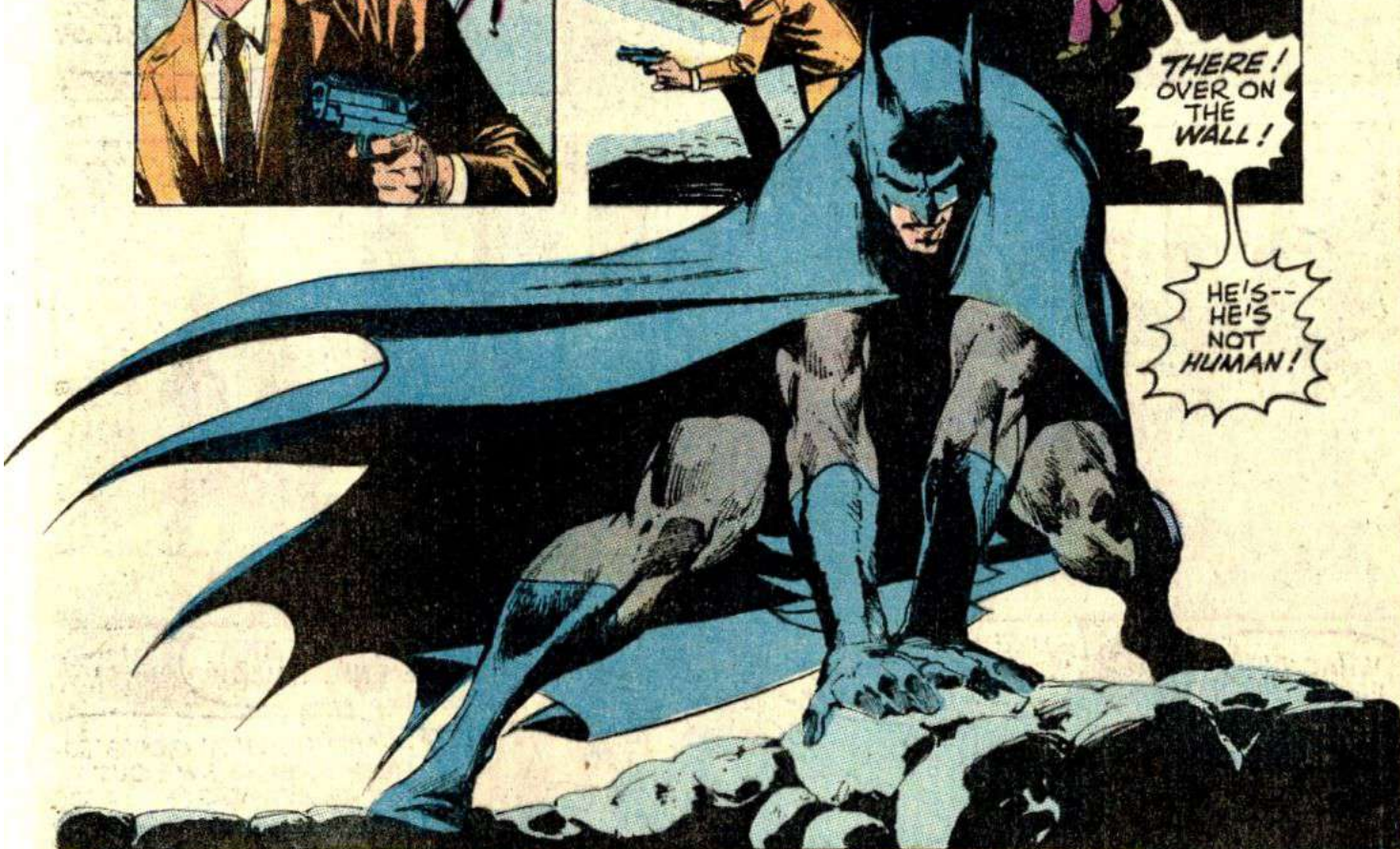
WHAT ARE YOU HANDING ME, KID?

THERE'S NO ONE HERE!--AND THAT SUDDEN STOP WOULD HAVE TOSSED ANYBODY ON HIS NOSE!

B-BUT I SWEAR I--



THERE! OVER ON THE WALL!



HE'S-- HE'S NOT HUMAN!



WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW HUMAN THE BATMAN IS! WE'LL SHOW YOU HE'S--



GONE!

FOR THIRTY FULL SECONDS THEY STAND THERE... ROCK-FOOTED...TRANSFIXED...

THEN...

WE
KILLED
HIM--

--I KNOW
WE KILLED
HIM!

WITH
HIM, YOU
DON'T "KNOW"
ANYTHING...!

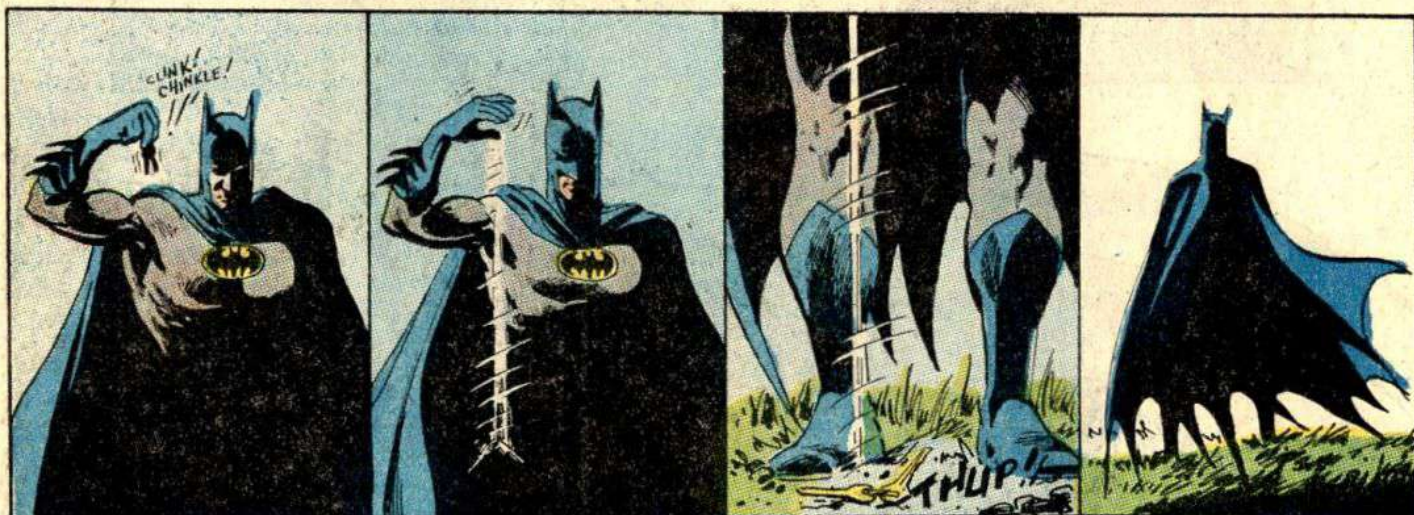
BUT UNTIL WE DO,
YOU'VE GOT ONE THING
RIGHT, CANNON... A FAST
RETREAT!

THEN, LET'S GO...
BLAST IT! TURN THE
KEY AND GET US OUT
OF HERE!

K-KID...THE KEYS...
THEY'RE GONE!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT? THEY HAVE
TO BE--

SHUT UP BOTH
OF YOU! L-LOOK...!



WHAT TH--?
HE'S JUST
STANDING
THERE...

--LIKE HE'S SAYING
"COME GET THE KEYS
...I DARE YOU!"

WELL, I'LL TAKE THAT
DARE! HE'S NOT HAULIN'
ME BACK--

--AND HE'S NOT GOING TO
KEEP FREAKING ME OUT
EITHER!



YOU SEE,
BATMAN...YOU
SEE? THIS IS
FOR KEEPS!

CANNON!
DON'T DO IT!
STAY AWAY
FROM HIM!

SHOVE IT, PUNK!
I WANT THOSE KEYS!
I WANT AN END
TO THIS!

EACH MAN MUST MEET HIS OWN FEAR
HIS OWN WAY, FOR CANNON...

...IT IS A HARD, BULL-LIKE
CHARGE AT HIS TORMENTOR!

HARD ENOUGH TO
SEND THEM BOTH
OVER THE EDGE
OF THE CLIFF!

HE-HE COULDN'T
STOP! THEY'RE
FALLING!

THEN
CANNON BECOMES
A BIG HERO IN
THE UNDER-
WORLD!

IT'S A GOOD
WAY AS ANY
TO GO... BETTER
THAN MOST!

STOP GAPING...
PICK UP THOSE KEYS
WHILE WE GOT THE
CHANCE!



MECHANICALLY, YET
WITH FALSIED FINGERS,
THE YOUNG BANDIT
OBEYS...

CAR DOORS SLAM... THE IGNITION CATCHES... TIRES SPIN...



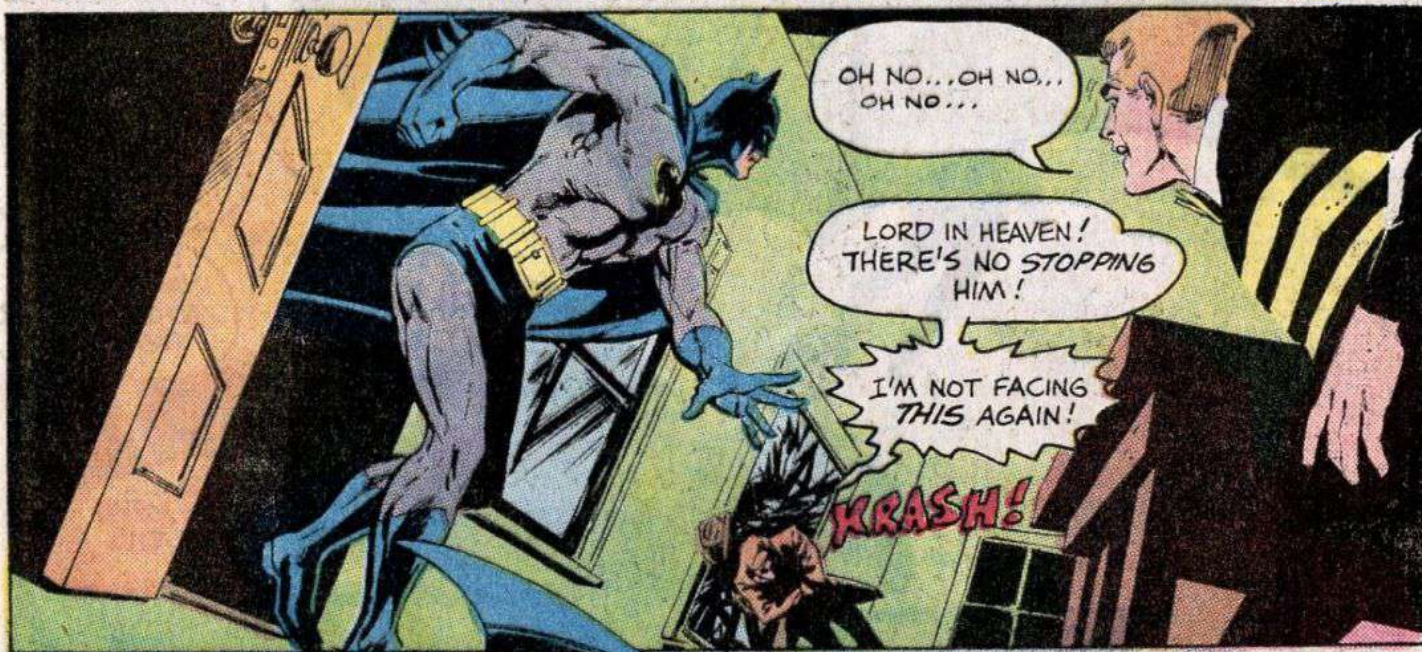
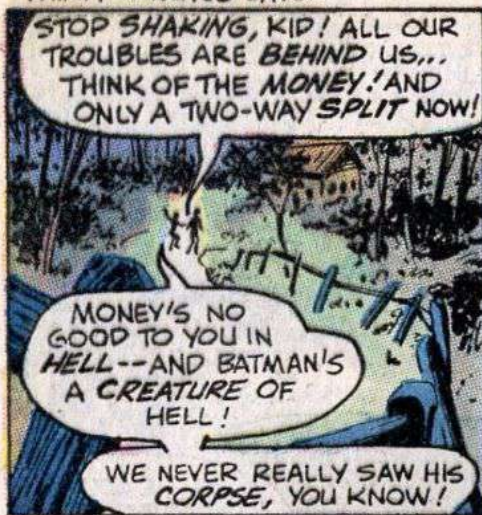
--AND TWO REMAIN-
ING FELONS FLEE,
LEAVING ONLY
SWIRLING DUST, A
CHILLING WIND...



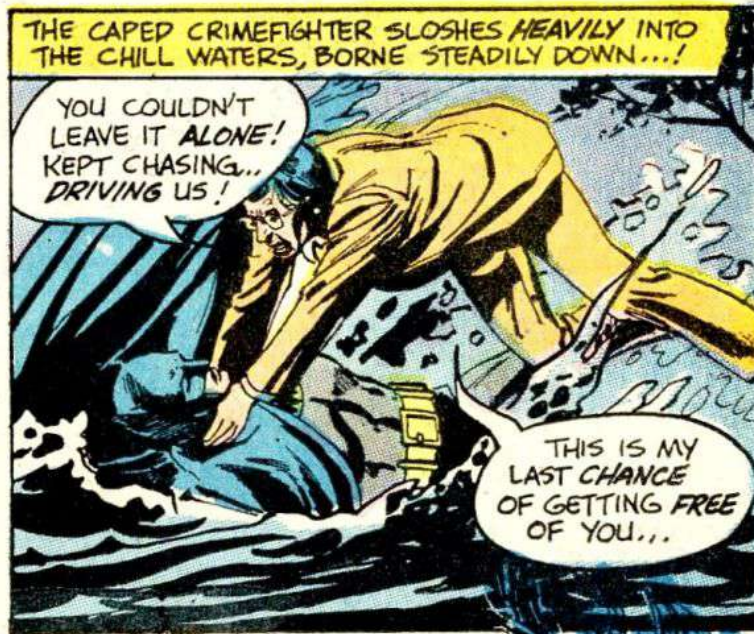
HOLDING A
FOE WHO
FAILED! WHO,
IN TIME, WILL
WAKE; IN
TIME, WILL
TALK...

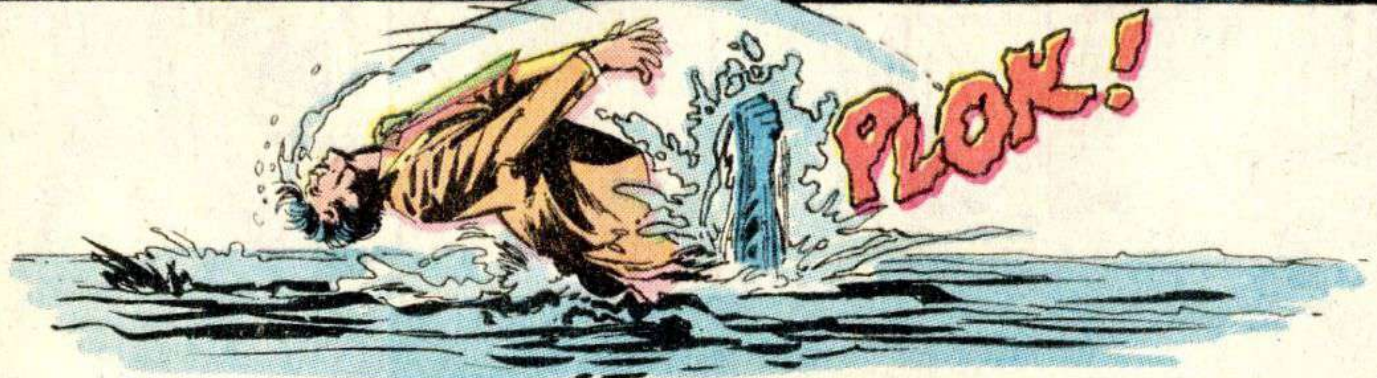
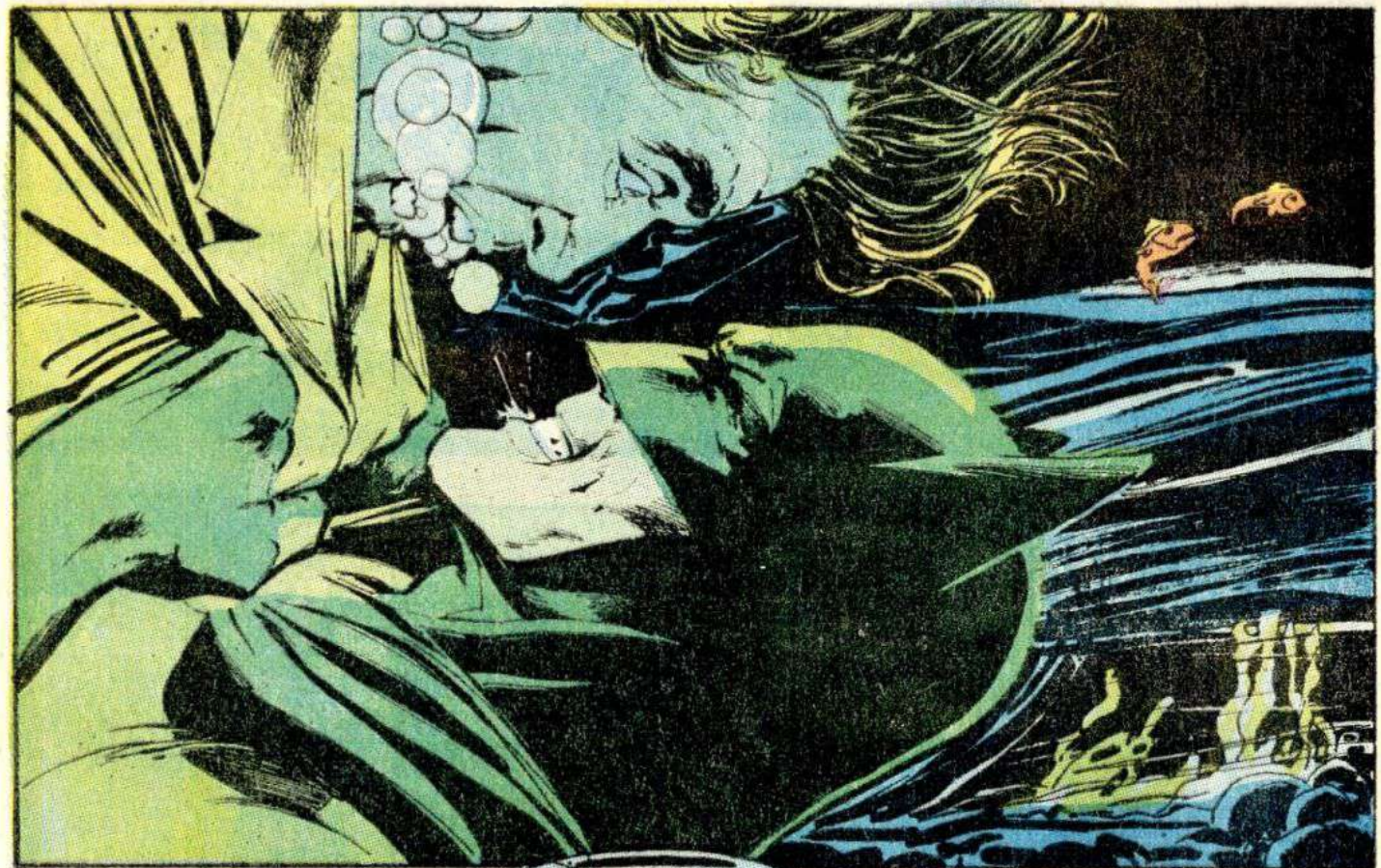
...AND THE
BATMAN!

THIRTY MINUTES LATER--



"CRIMINALS ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS, COWARDLY LOT, SO MY DISGUISE MUST BE ABLE TO STRIKE TERROR INTO THEIR HEARTS." NOT EVEN THE FLEDGLING BATMAN, MURMURING THOSE FATEFUL WORDS SO MANY YEARS AGO, COULD KNOW HOW CORRECT TIME WOULD PROVE HIM!





NOW ONLY ONE REMAINS...
ONLY ONE...



...THE KID!

STOP
WHERE YOU
ARE,
BATMAN!



I MEAN
IT! STOP!

MAYBE YOU
CAN'T BE
KILLED--

--BUT I'LL
HAVE TO
TRY!



YOU HEAR? THIS GUN'S
LOADED...! IF YOU FORCE
ME...I'LL SHOOT!

I DON'T WANT
TO GO TO JAIL!
NEVER WANTED
TO GET MIXED
UP IN MURDER!

BUT PUSH ME AND
...AND...



I CAN'T! I CAN'T!

FOR GOD'S SAKE,
BATMAN... GET IT
OVER WITH! ANYTHING!
ONLY...

...E-END
IT!

SUDDENLY, LIKE A DYNAMITED DAM,
THE HATE THAT HAS CHOKED THE
SOUL OF THIS FEARSOME NEMESIS
--THIS MAN BENEATH THE COWL--
SPIRALS AWAY INTO OBLIVION!



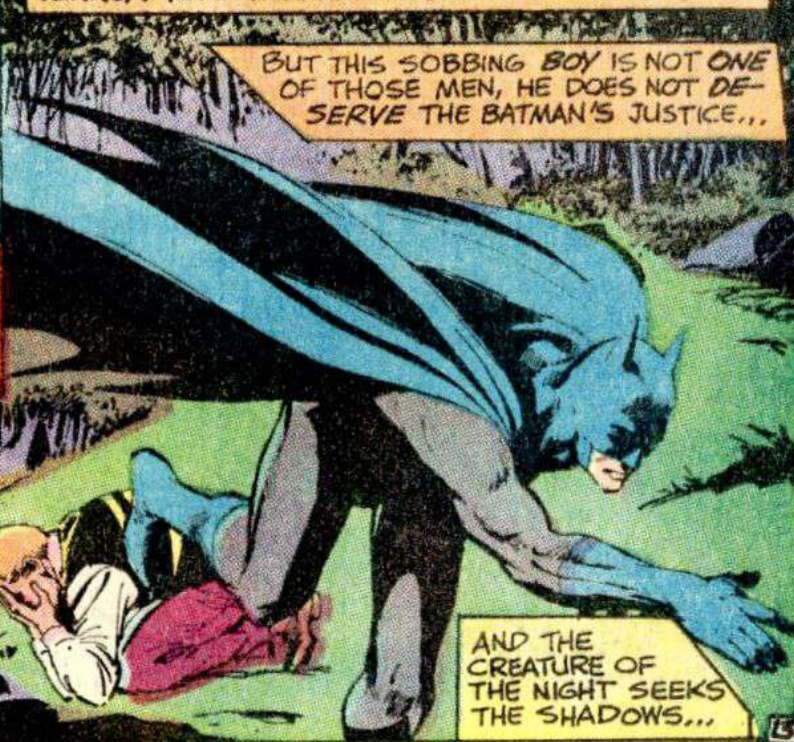
OOOWWEEEEE

THOUGHTS
BEYOND THE
NIGHT'S STALK-
ING ONCE MORE
REACH HIM...

...AS DO SOUNDS...

HE HAS DONE HIS DARK WORK. HE HAS STALKED
VICIOUS MEN WITH EQUAL VICIOUSNESS, "TO STRIKE
TERROR INTO THEIR HEARTS!"

BUT THIS SOBBING BOY IS NOT ONE
OF THOSE MEN, HE DOES NOT DE-
SERVE THE BATMAN'S JUSTICE...



AND THE
CREATURE OF
THE NIGHT SEEKS
THE SHADOWS...

DAWN IS STEALING INTO GOTHAM CITY AS THE BATMAN SLIPS INTO THE PENTHOUSE ATOP THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING...

...WHERE, WITH THE FROSTY BIRTH OF DAY, THIS HAUNTER OF DARKNESS "DIES"... LEAVING ONLY A WEARY BRUCE WAYNE...

AS HE LIFTS THE COWL FROM HIS DRAWN FACE, HIS EYES AUTOMATICALLY RISE...

...AND SUDDENLY, SORROW EXPLODES WITHIN HIM.

TIME HEALS ALL WOUNDS, THEY SAY--

--AND, IN TRUTH, BRUCE WAYNE LONG AGO LEARNED TO LIVE WITH THE AGONIZING FACT OF HIS PARENTS' DEMISE.

BUT WHEN HE THINKS OF THE BOY CRIME LEFT SOBBING ON THE STREET AT DUSK--AND THE OTHER BOY CRIME LEFT SOBBING BEFORE THE BATMAN'S VENGEANCE HOURS LATER--

--HE REMEMBERS A THIRD BOY CRIME LEFT SOBBING SO MANY YEARS AGO, AND IN THIS GRAY-LIT, LONELY TOWER, FOR THIS SINGLE MOMENT IN INFINITY...

...HE IS THAT BOY AGAIN.

the END.



30¢
NO. 469
MAY
30465

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS

GOTHAM CITY
IS TO BLAME
FOR TURNING
ME INTO LIVING
PHOSPHOROUS!

SO I'LL
DESTROY
THE CITY,
BATMAN--
BEGINNING
WITH YOU!



FOR THE BATMAN, THE LONG NIGHT OF VIGILANCE WAS OVER! GOTHAM CITY WOULD GREET THE RETURNING DAWN IN SAFETY AND PEACE, BECAUSE HE HAD PATROLLED ITS DARKER HOURS!

THAT, AT LEAST, IS WHAT HE BELIEVED-- UNTIL HE ENTERED HIS OWN HOME!...

ALFRED!
WHAT'S WRONG??

"...BY
DEATH'S
EERIE
LIGHT!"

PRESENTING:
THE BATMAN
YOU'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR BY:
AUTHOR
STEVE ENGLEHART
WALT SIMONSON
ARTIST
AL MILGROM
INKER
M. ROGERS
COLORIST

JULIE SCHWARTZ
EDITOR

THE DARK KNIGHT IS WEARY--
READY FOR HIS FEW HOURS OF
SLUMBER BEFORE RISING TO GREET
THE BUSINESS DAY AS BRUCE WAYNE!



...YET
HE'S IN
NO WAY
SLOWED!

OUTSIDE, ON THE STREETS, MEN
CALL HIM A *SHADOW*...A *SHROUD*!
OUTSIDE, THEY SEE ONLY HIS
MYSTERY--



--WHILE IN THIS PLACE, WHERE
NO ONE SEES, THERE IS ONLY
THE MAN!

HE'S *COMATOSE*--
ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION'S
WORTHLESS!

HANG ON, OLD FRIEND!
I'LL HAVE AN AMBULANCE
HERE IN MINUTES!



AND EVEN AS HE MAKES HIS
CALL, HIS MIND IS RACING *BACK*...
BACK...



...TO HIS ENTRANCE
OF THE WAYNE
FOUNDATION
BUILDING MOMENTS
EARLIER... THE
SOUND OF SIRENS
PASSING...



...TO ALFRED'S
NORMAL PRESEN-
TATION OF A PRE-
DAWN SNACK...

THERE
SEEMS TO
BE QUITE A
NUMBER OF
SIRENS
TONIGHT,
SIR.

I TRUST
YOU KEPT
BUSY.



...AND THEN...!

UNNGHH!

ALFRED!



AND NOW--!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
NO AMBULANCE IS
AVAILABLE?

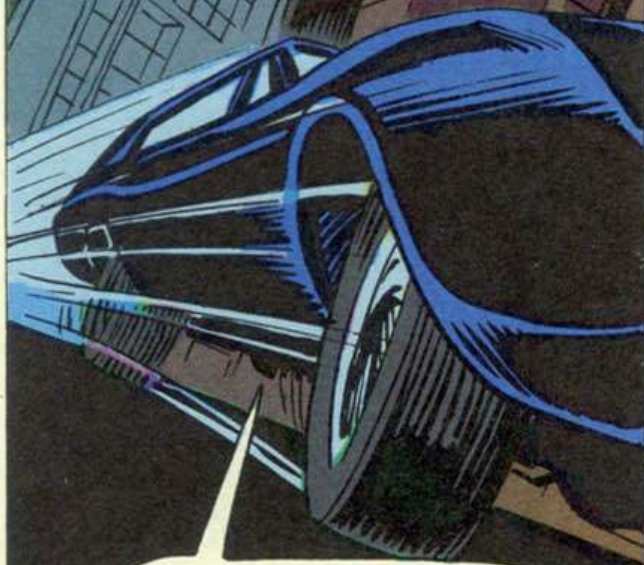
I'M SORRY,
SIR! THERE'S
SOME SORT OF
EPIDEMIC
SWEEPING
GOTHAM!



TIGHT-LIPPED, THE
CAPED CRUSADER
TAKES MATTERS INTO
HIS OWN HANDS!

HIS SECRET ELEVATOR
DROPS THEM SWIFTLY TO
THE GARAGE--

-- WHICH, SECONDS LATER, DISGORGES THE MIGHTY BATMOBILE FROM ITS CAMOUFLAGED EXIT!



AN EPIDEMIC--? THAT WOULD EXPLAIN ALL THE SIRENS: AMBULANCES, NOT POLICE OR FIRE CALLS!

BUT WE'LL SPARE NO EXPENSE TO HELP YOU, ALFRED!



IN A WAY, THEN, IT'S LUCKY THAT THE BATMAN CAN'T BRING YOU IN--

--BECAUSE BRUCE WAYNE IS THE ONE TO GRIEVE FOR HIS BUTLER --AND BRUCE WAYNE GETS THE BEST WHEREVER HE GOES!



ARE HIS WORDS CALLOUS--ARROGANT? DON'T JUDGE HIM TOO QUICKLY, AMIGO!

REMEMBER-- HE PAYS HIS WAY IN THIS WORLD!

THREE MINUTES LATER--



BATMAN! AM I GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

I GUESS I KNEW YOU'D SHOW, THOUGH! YOU ALWAYS DO!

WHAT'S WRONG, DOCTOR?

FIFTY PEOPLE IN THE LAST HOUR WITH THE SAME MYSTERIOUS SICKNESS!



MYSTERIOUS--?

WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT IS!

ALL WE KNOW IS THAT IT SWEEPS THROUGH THE BODY LIKE WILDFIRE!

SO FAR, NO ONE'S DIED, BUT WE NEED A DIAGNOSIS! IF--



EXCUSE ME, DOCTOR.

BLAST IT, BELL, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO TALK NOW!

NOW LOOK HERE, COMMISSIONER--



--I MIGHT LET YOU TALK LIKE THAT IF I WERE JUST THIS HOSPITAL'S CHIEF OF STAFF, BUT YOU FORGET I'M ALSO A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER!

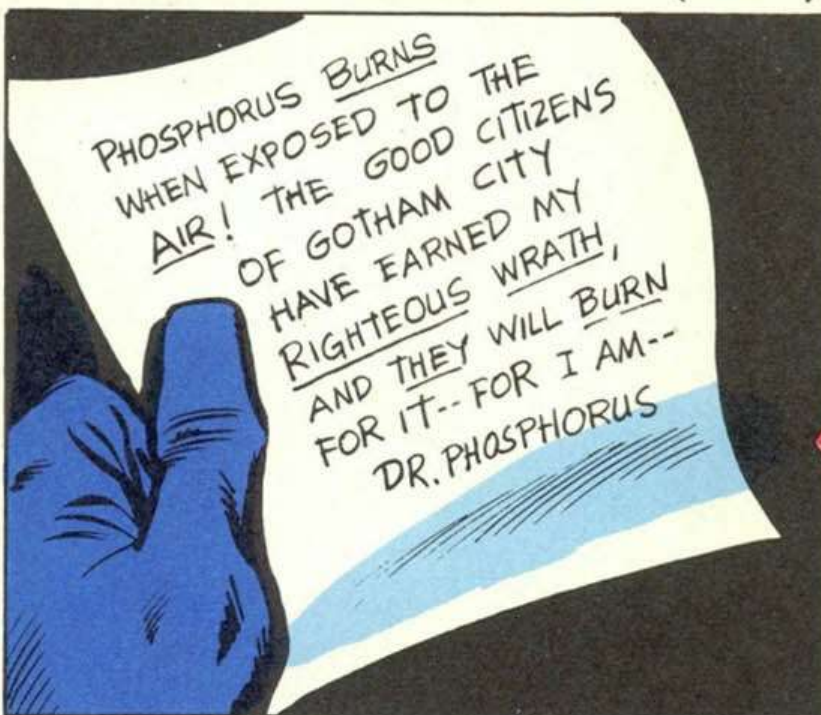
I FORGET NOTHING, DOCTOR! IF YOU WANT TO PULL STRINGS, PULL 'EM-- BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M BUSY!



BELL PROBABLY WILL, TOO! SOMETIMES, IT SEEMS I SPEND HALF MY LIFE SOOTHING RUFFLED FEATHERS AT CITY HALL!

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE RUNNING THE POLICE FORCE--

-- BUT EACH OF THEM WANTS IT RUN HIS WAY!



PHOSPHORUS BURNS
WHEN EXPOSED TO THE
AIR! THE GOOD CITIZENS
OF GOTHAM CITY
HAVE EARNED MY
RIGHTEOUS WRATH,
AND THEY WILL BURN
FOR IT-- FOR I AM--
DR. PHOSPHORUS



WHAT'S HIS BEEF? SURELY YOU'RE HELPING HIS MEN TRACK DOWN THE CAUSE OF THE EPIDEMIC!

OH, WE'VE FOUND THE CAUSE! BELL WANTS TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO NEXT!

LOOK AT THIS!



IT WAS TELEPHONED TO MY OFFICE! NOW YOU SEE WHY I WON'T OPEN UP TO ANY DOCTORS!

THE BATMAN
MAKES NO
REPLY.

HIS COOL, CALCULATING MIND HAS
BEGUN TO RACE! IT PACES HIM AS HE
THREADS HIS WAY BACK ACROSS
GOTHAM'S ROOFTOPS --

--DOWN HIS HIDDEN PASSAGeways,
AND UP HIS WHITE TOWER TO
THE SKY!

THE WORLD'S FINEST
DETECTIVE HAS BEGUN
TO HUNT!



RAINCOAT'S DRY!

THEN ALFRED DIDN'T GO
OUT IN THE STORM!



SO, SINCE THE DISEASE
STRIKES FAST, IT CAME TO
HIM LAST NIGHT, IN THIS
APARTMENT!

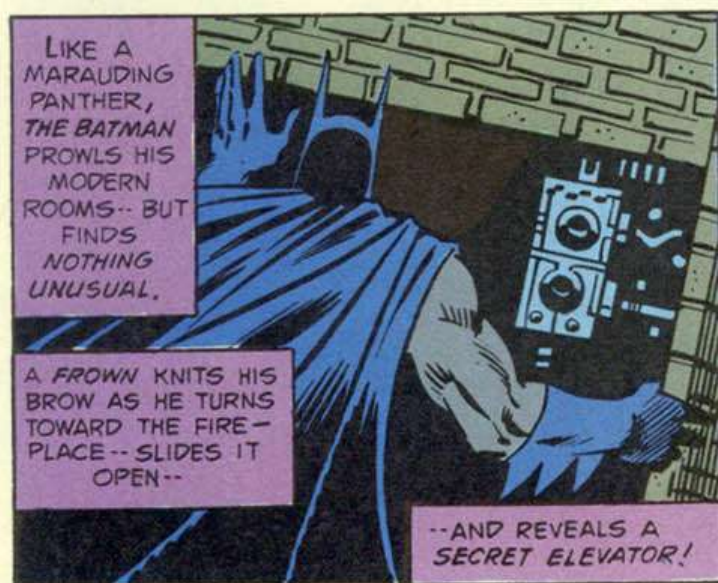
THE GAZETTE? NO, I
HANDLED IT, TOO!



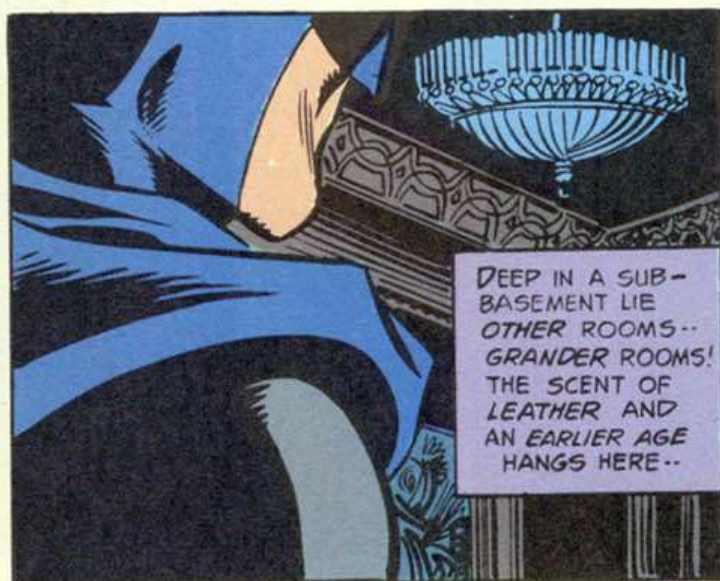
LIKE A
MARAUDING
PANTHER,
THE BATMAN
PROWLs HIS
MODERN
ROOMS-- BUT
FINDS
NOTHING
UNUSUAL.

A FROWN KNITS HIS
BROW AS HE TURNS
TOWARD THE FIRE-
PLACE-- SLIDES IT
OPEN--

--AND REVEALS A
SECRET ELEVATOR!



DEEP IN A SUB-
BASEMENT LIE
OTHER ROOMS--
GRANDER ROOMS!
THE SCENT OF
LEATHER AND
AN EARLIER AGE
HANGS HERE--



--MORE IN KEEPING WITH THE DARK AND
SINISTER FIGURE OF THEIR OWNER!

ALFRED NEVER COMES
IN HERE! SAYS IT MAKES
HIM SAD TO REMEMBER
WAYNE MANOR!

BUT I REALLY LOVED
THAT OLD PLACE! IT'S
COMPLETELY IMPRACTICAL
TO LIVE THAT FAR
OUT OF THE
CITY NOW--

-- BUT PLASTIC REALLY GETS
TO ME AFTER A WHILE!





GOTHAM RESERVOIR, THIRTY-SIX MINUTES LATER! THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN ALERTED-- THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM IS SHUT DOWN-- THE DOCTORS ARE FRANTICALLY APPROACHING A CURE! THESE ARE THE OBVIOUS RESPONSES!



BUT THE BATMAN AVOIDS THE OBVIOUS! HE, AND HE ALONE, HAS SPED TOWARD THE RISING SUN ---

--TO SEEK THE WATER'S SOURCE!

EVERYTHING SEEMS QUIET ENOUGH! THAT WALL WOULD HOLD ALMOST ANYONE BACK--



WAIT!

LIGHT-- BETWEEN THE TREES! IT'S ALMOST BLINDING!

THERE'S SOMEONE--!

WELCOME, BATMAN!



I KNEW YOU'D COME, FOR I AM INDEED--

--DR. PHOSPHORUS!!

IT WAS CERTAIN WE WOULD MEET-- YOU, THE SWORN DEFENDER OF GOTHAM CITY-- AND I, ITS PITILESS NEMESIS!

I AM SWORN TO DESTROY IT, AS IT HAS DESTROYED ME! SO IT IS THAT I MUST DESTROY YOU!

A LOT OF MEN HAVE TRIED-- SOME OF THEM A LOT WILDER-LOOKING THAN YOU!

OH, YES--

--BUT NONE OF THEM HAD MY BODY OF LIVING PHOSPHORUS!

IT BURNS, YOU MAY REMEMBER, WHEN EXPOSED TO AIR!

CAN'T HOLD ONTO HIM--!

YOU BURN AT MY TOUCH, BATMAN-- JUST LIKE THE STOMACHS OF EVERY LIVING THING IN GOTHAM!

I'VE POISONED THEIR BODIES WITH MINE--

--BY SOAKING IN THEIR WATER!





THE GHASTLY, GRINNING GROTESQUERY STAGGERS AND FALLS! FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE MAD TRIUMPH IN HIS GAZE GLAZES OVER!



FLAMING FINGERS FASTEN ON A DARK-COWLED THROAT! BATMAN GASPS IN AGONY, AND STAGGERS--

--BACKWARDS--





... JUST TO TIDE YOU
OVER, WE PRESENT THE
ANSWERS TO YOUR
QUESTIONS-- AND A
LITTLE BIT MORE!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--

"The ORIGIN of DR. PHOSPHORUS"

GOOD EVENING,
DR. BELL!
I HAVE COME
FOR YOU!

STEVE ENGLEHART—AUTHOR
WALT SIMONSON—PENCILS
AL MILGROM—INKS
JERRY SERPE—COLORS

HOW--HOW DARE
YOU ENTER MY
HOME? YOU HAVE
NO BUSINESS
HERE!

YOU'RE
THAT
PHOSPHORUS
PERSON--THE
ONE THAT FOUGHT
THE BATMAN THIS
MORNING!
I DON'T--

BUT SURELY, BELL--SURELY YOU
KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT!

SURELY YOU
RECOGNIZE
ME AS YOUR
OLD COLLEAGUE--

-- DR. SARTORIUS!

SARTORIUS?
NO! HE'S
DEAD--!

THAT COULD BE MUCH MORE
CONVENIENT FOR ALL OF US,
DOCTOR--

--BUT I
DO LIVE!

AH! I BELIEVE
I SEE SOME
RECOGNITION IN
YOUR EYES, AT
LAST!

"WE WERE FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE *TOBACCONISTS'*
CLUB. SOME PEOPLE SAY ITS MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES
THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN *GOTHAM*--"

"--AND IT WOULD BE
FOOLISH TO DENY!"





PUT YOUR
MONEY INTO OUR
POWER PLANT,
SARTORIUS! YOU'LL
DO **ALL RIGHT!**

THANK YOU,
MR. THORNE!
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!

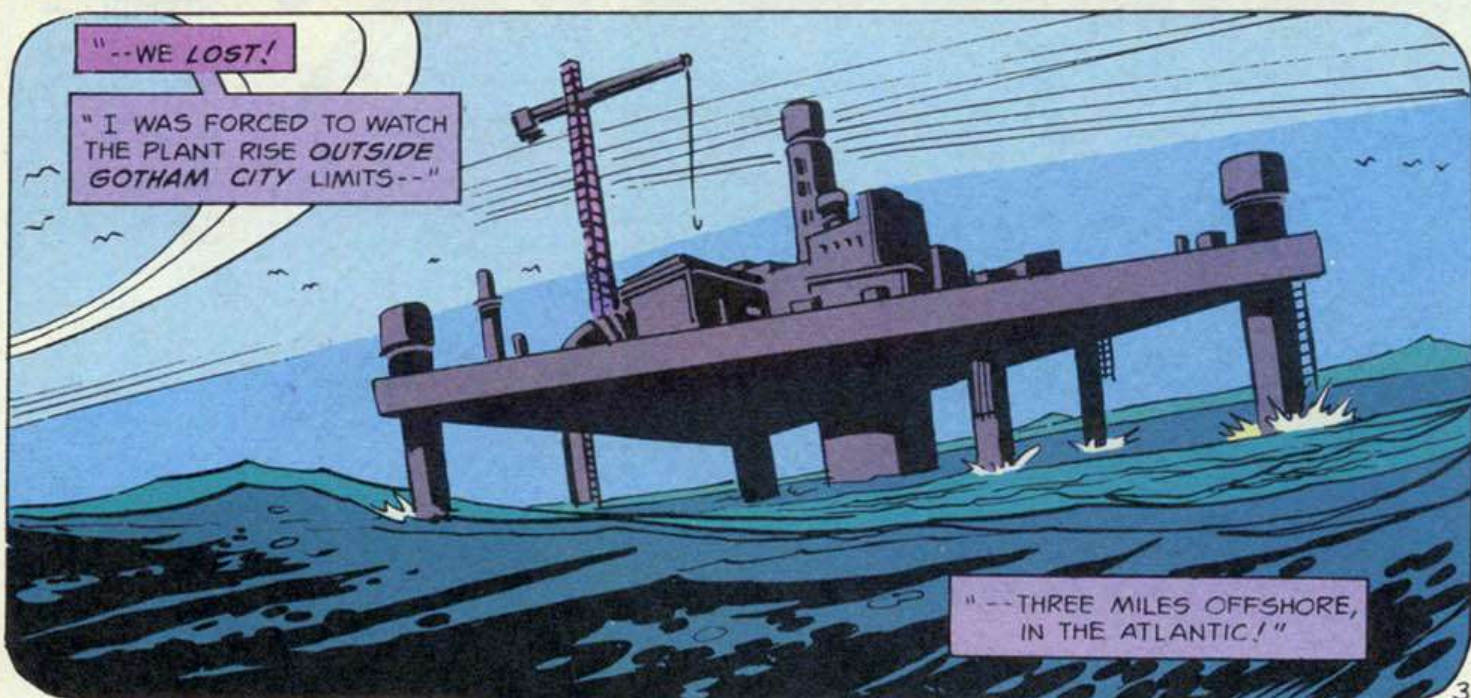


"BUT IT DIDN'T
QUITE WORK OUT THAT
WAY! AFTER I'D SUNK
MY ENTIRE SAVINGS
INTO YOUR COUNCIL'S
SCHEME--"

"--THE PEOPLE
OF GOTHAM
DECIDED
THEY DIDN'T
WANT
THE PLANT!"



"YOU AND THORNE
WERE FORCED TO PUT
THE QUESTION ON THE
BALLOT--AND DESPITE
YOUR NOTORIOUS
ELECTIONEERING--"



"--WE LOST!"

"I WAS FORCED TO WATCH
THE PLANT RISE **OUTSIDE**
GOTHAM CITY LIMITS--"

"--THREE MILES OFFSHORE,
IN THE ATLANTIC!"

"IT WAS A BAD SOLUTION! NOW, THE PLANT NEEDED MORE MONEY TO COVER THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES-- AND THERE WAS NO MORE MONEY! WE HAD ALREADY DANGEROUSLY OVEREXTENDED OURSELVES--"



"--SO WE HAD TO CUT CORNERS ELSEWHERE!"

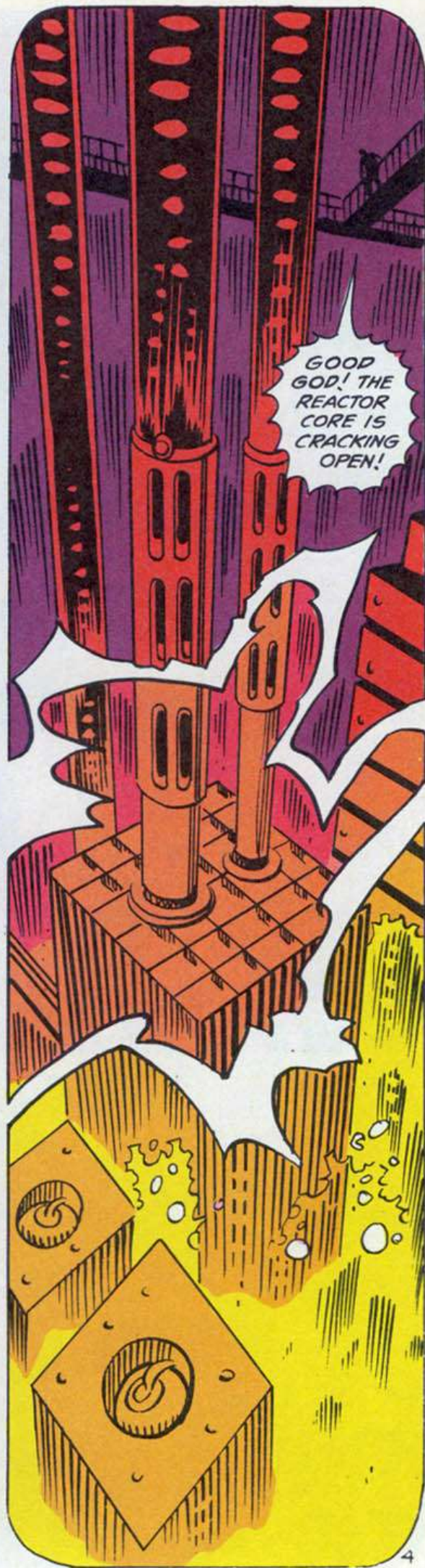
"ONE NIGHT LAST NOVEMBER, I WAS OUT THERE, ALONE! THE WORKMEN HAD FINISHED FOR THE DAY--BUT I WANTED TO SEE HOW MY INVESTMENT WAS FARING, AND NO ONE COULD DENY A *BACKER!*"



"THINGS WERE ALMOST COMPLETE--THE REACTOR CORE HAD BEEN INSTALLED THAT VERY DAY! IT LOOKED LIKE WE MIGHT JUST PULL IT OFF!"



"THEN, I NOTICED THE SPARKS!"



GOOD GOD! THE REACTOR CORE IS CRACKING OPEN!

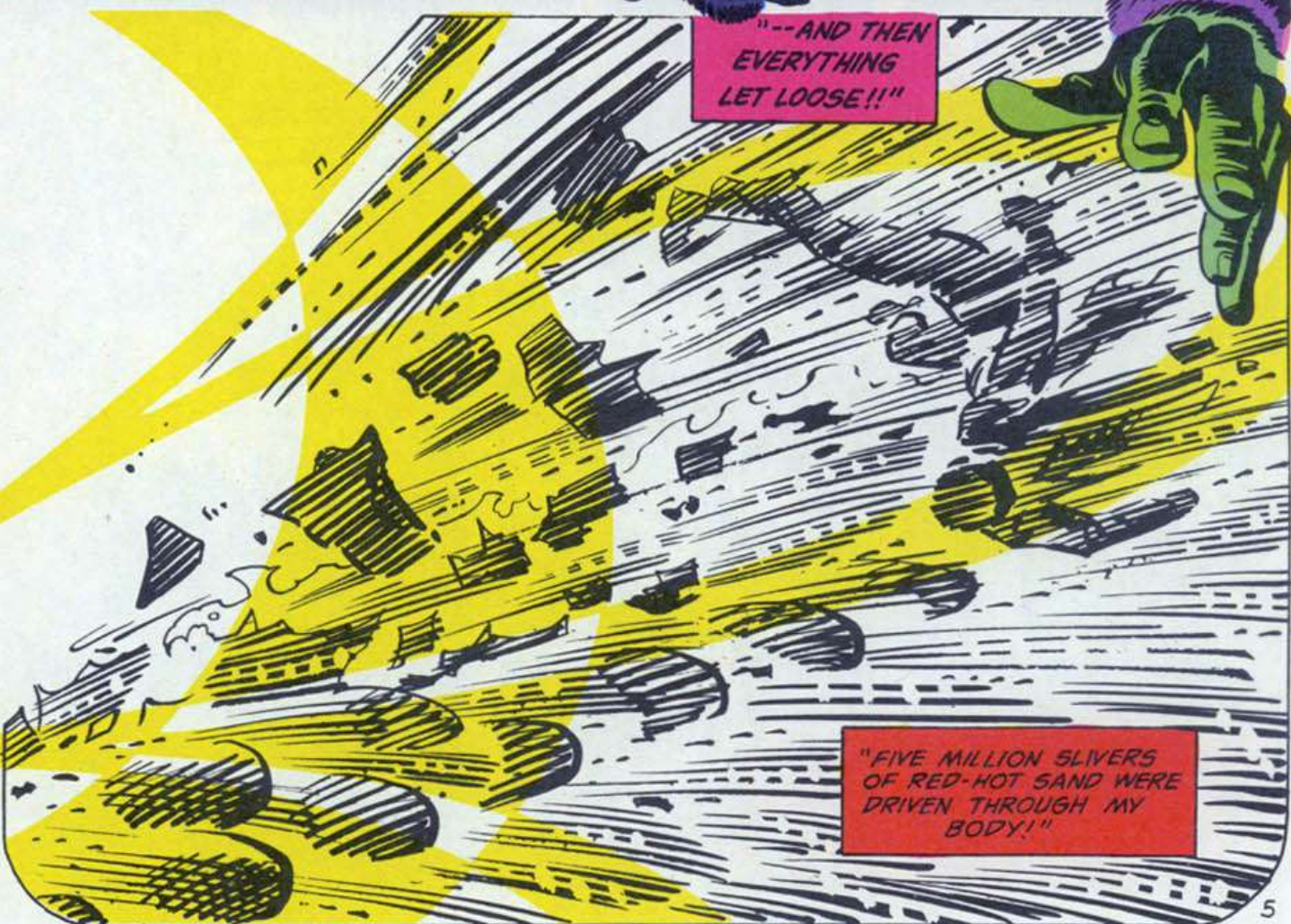


"WITH MY HEART
IN MY MOUTH, I
KNEW I COULD
NEVER REACH THE
EXIT!"



"DESPERATELY, I
DIVED BEHIND A
PILE OF SAND BAGS,
PRAYING THAT
SOMEHOW THEY'D
SAVE ME--"

"--SOMEHOW
THEY'D LET ME
LIVE--"



"--AND THEN
EVERYTHING
LET LOOSE!!"

"FIVE MILLION SLIVERS
OF RED-HOT SAND WERE
DRIVEN THROUGH MY
BODY!"





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NO. 470
JUNE
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BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS



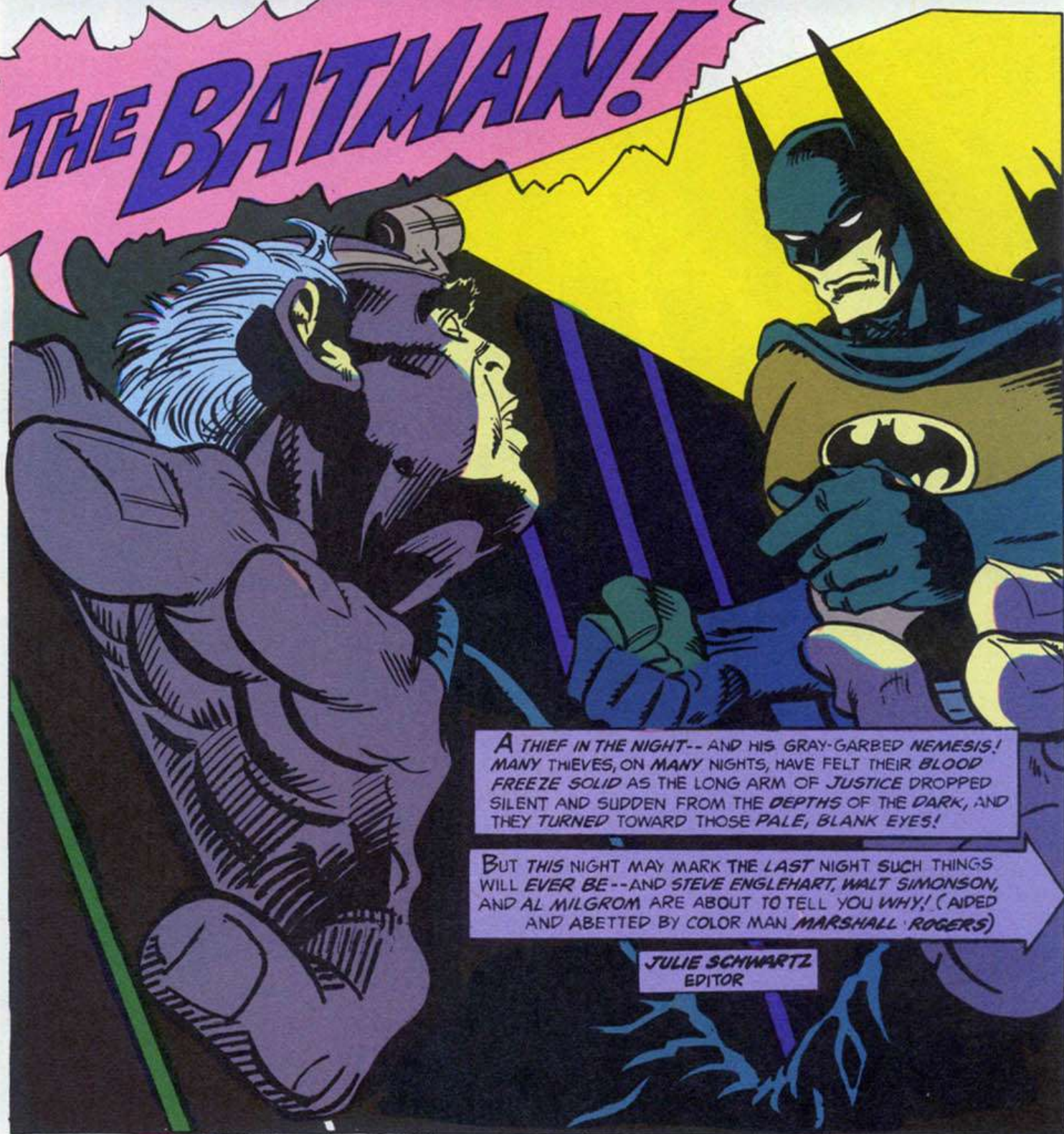
BATMAN--YOU FOOL!
I'M RADIOACTIVE!

YOU'VE BEATEN ME--
BUT MY DEADLY TOUCH IS
KILLING YOU!





THE BATMAN!!



A THIEF IN THE NIGHT-- AND HIS GRAY-GARBED NEMESIS! MANY THIEVES, ON MANY NIGHTS, HAVE FELT THEIR BLOOD FREEZE SOLID AS THE LONG ARM OF JUSTICE DROPPED SILENT AND SUDDEN FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE DARK, AND THEY TURNED TOWARD THOSE PALE, BLANK EYES!

BUT THIS NIGHT MAY MARK THE LAST NIGHT SUCH THINGS WILL EVER BE--AND STEVE ENGLEHART, WALT SIMONSON, AND AL MILGROM ARE ABOUT TO TELL YOU WHY! (AIDED AND ABETTED BY COLOR MAN MARSHALL ROGERS)

JULIE SCHWARTZ
EDITOR



**"The MASTER PLAN of
DR. PHOSPHORUS!"**

LET 'IM
TRY TO
TAKE ME!

I KNOW THIS
CITY LIKE THE
BACK OF MY
HAND!

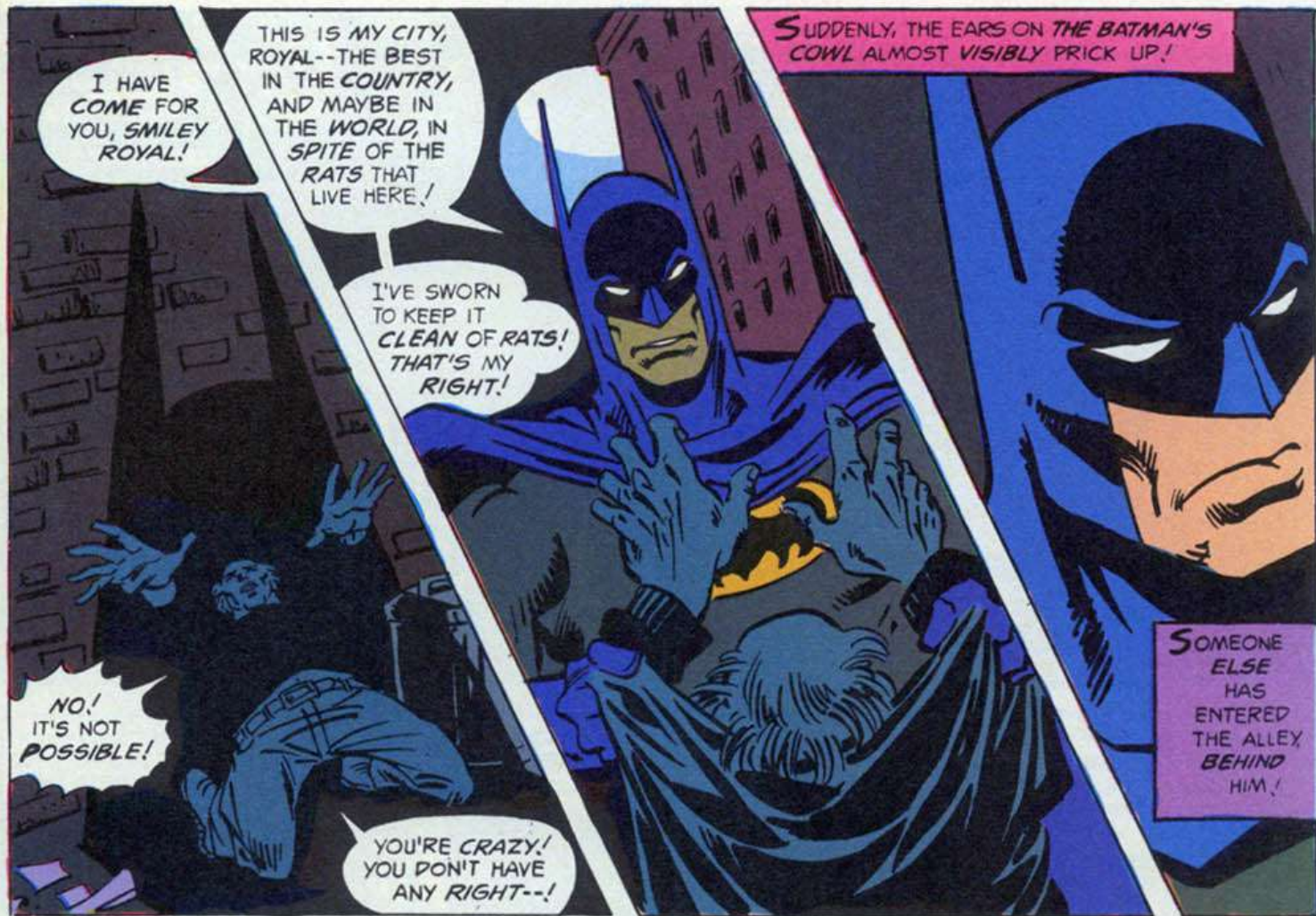
MANY THIEVES...
MANY NIGHTS!

THEY SAY HE'S
HUMAN! I
DON'T KNOW--!

BUT I DO KNOW
EVEN A PHANTOM
COULDN'T TRACK ME
IN THIS CONCRETE
MAZE!

OH,
NO!
FOOTSTEPS--

--COMING
THIS WAY!



I HAVE
COME FOR
YOU, SMILEY
ROYAL!

THIS IS MY CITY,
ROYAL--THE BEST
IN THE COUNTRY,
AND MAYBE IN
THE WORLD, IN
SPITE OF THE
RATS THAT
LIVE HERE!

I'VE SWORN
TO KEEP IT
CLEAN OF RATS!
THAT'S MY
RIGHT!

NO!
IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE!

YOU'RE CRAZY!
YOU DON'T HAVE
ANY RIGHT--!

SUDDENLY, THE EARS ON THE BATMAN'S
COWL ALMOST VISIBLY PRICK UP!

SOMEONE
ELSE
HAS
ENTERED
THE ALLEY
BEHIND
HIM!



HE SHIFTS HIS BODY, AND
WAITS FOR THE NEXT MOVE!

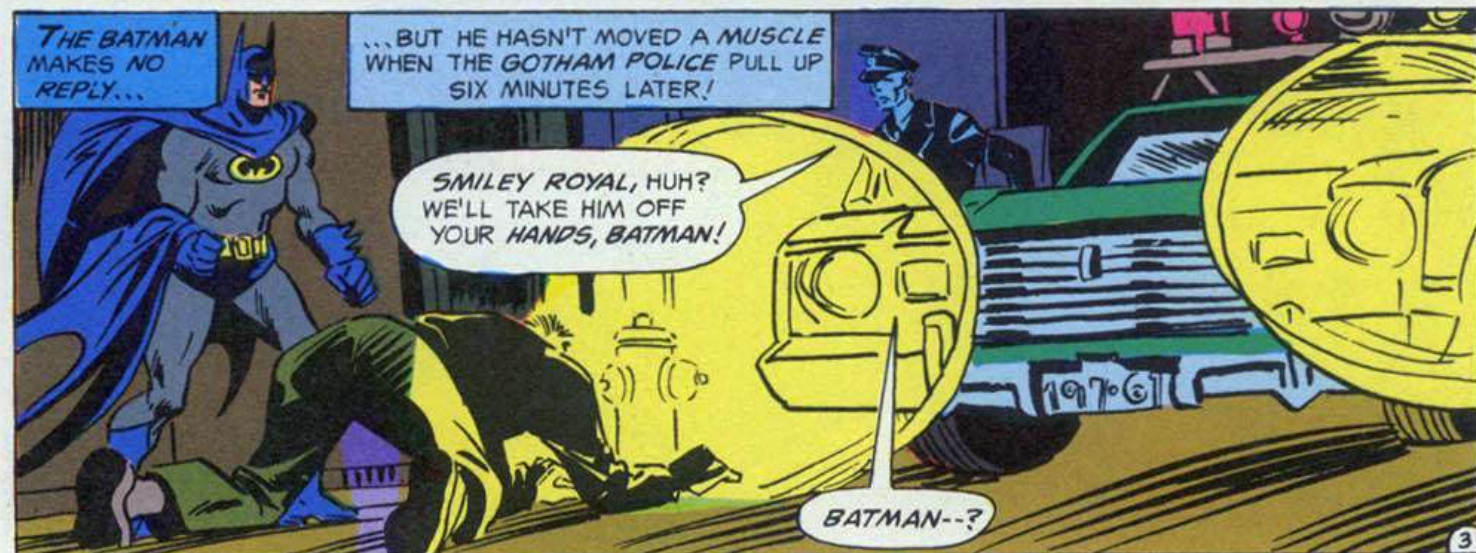
YOU THE BATMAN?

OF
COURSE!

DON'T GET EDGY,
BUDDY! I NEED
CONFIRMATION!

BATMAN, THIS IS A SUBPOENA!
YOU'RE DIRECTED TO APPEAR
BEFORE THE GOTHAM GRAND
JURY NEXT TUESDAY!

THAT'S ALL!
SEE YA
'ROUND!



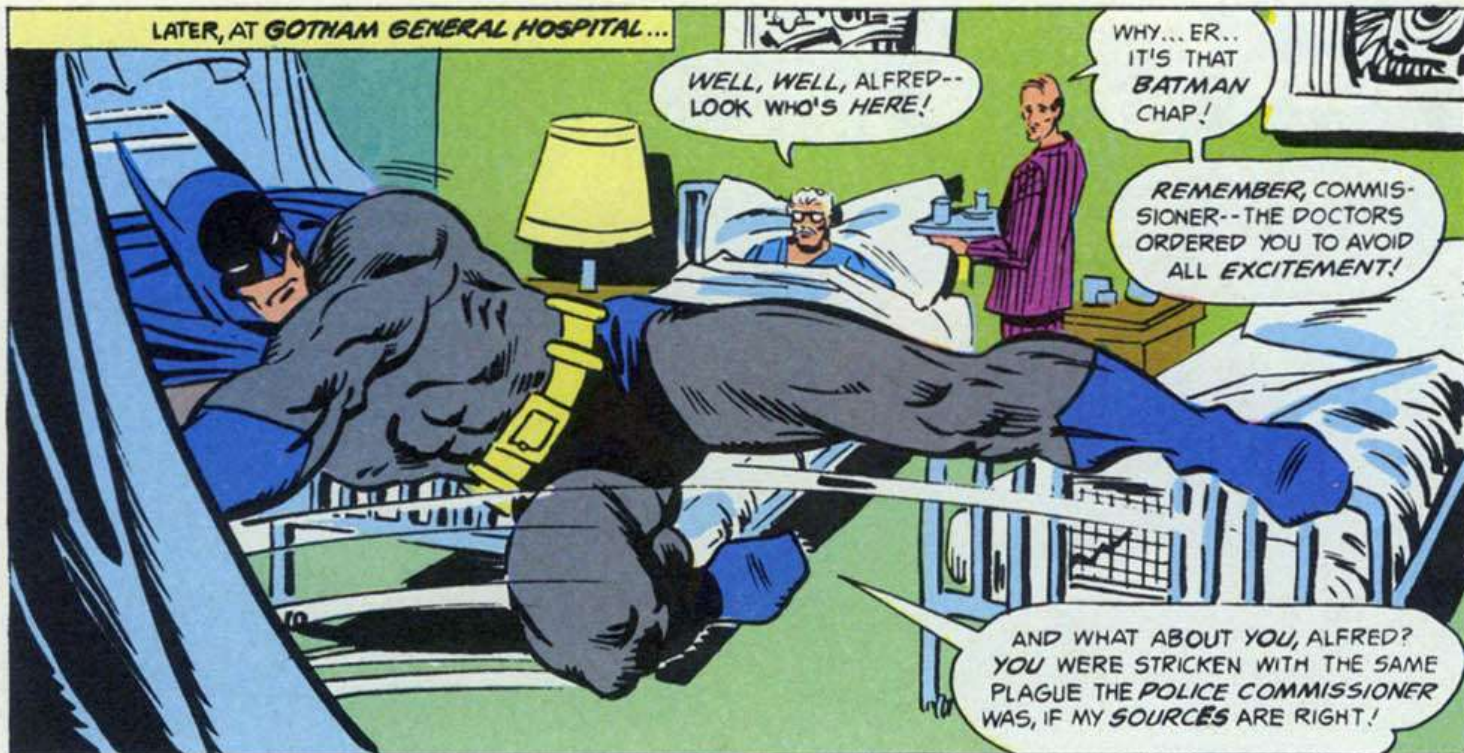
THE BATMAN
MAKES NO
REPLY...

... BUT HE HASN'T MOVED A MUSCLE
WHEN THE GOTHAM POLICE PULL UP
SIX MINUTES LATER!

SMILEY ROYAL, HUH?
WE'LL TAKE HIM OFF
YOUR HANDS, BATMAN!

BATMAN--?

LATER, AT GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL...



WELL, WELL, ALFRED--
LOOK WHO'S HERE!

WHY... ER...
IT'S THAT
BATMAN
CHAP!

REMEMBER, COMMISSIONER--THE DOCTORS
ORDERED YOU TO AVOID
ALL EXCITEMENT!

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, ALFRED?
YOU WERE STRICKEN WITH THE SAME
PLAGUE THE **POLICE COMMISSIONER**
WAS, IF MY **SOURCES** ARE RIGHT!

INDEED, SIR--BUT I WAS
STRICKEN **EARLIER**, AND
THUS HAVE **RECOVERED**
EARLIER!

THE COMMISSIONER AND
I ARE **OLD FRIENDS!** I
ASKED THE STAFF TO
SETTLE HIM IN
MY ROOM, SO
THAT I MIGHT
SEE TO HIS
NEEDS!

A **MANSERVANT**
IS A **MANSERVANT**,
THROUGH THICK
AND THIN!

YOU OLD **RASCAL!** SOME DAY YOU'RE
GOING TO PLAY YOUR PART TOO
BROADLY, AND GORDON WILL
TUMBLE TO US!



UM... COMMISSIONER, ORDINARILY
I WOULDN'T **BOTHER** YOU AT THIS
HOUR--BUT I WAS SLAPPED WITH
A **SUBPOENA** TONIGHT, FOR THE
GRAND JURY!

YOU KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT?

IT'S A MYSTERY
TO ME, **BATMAN!**



MUST BE
SOME OF
BOSS
THORNE'S
DOING!

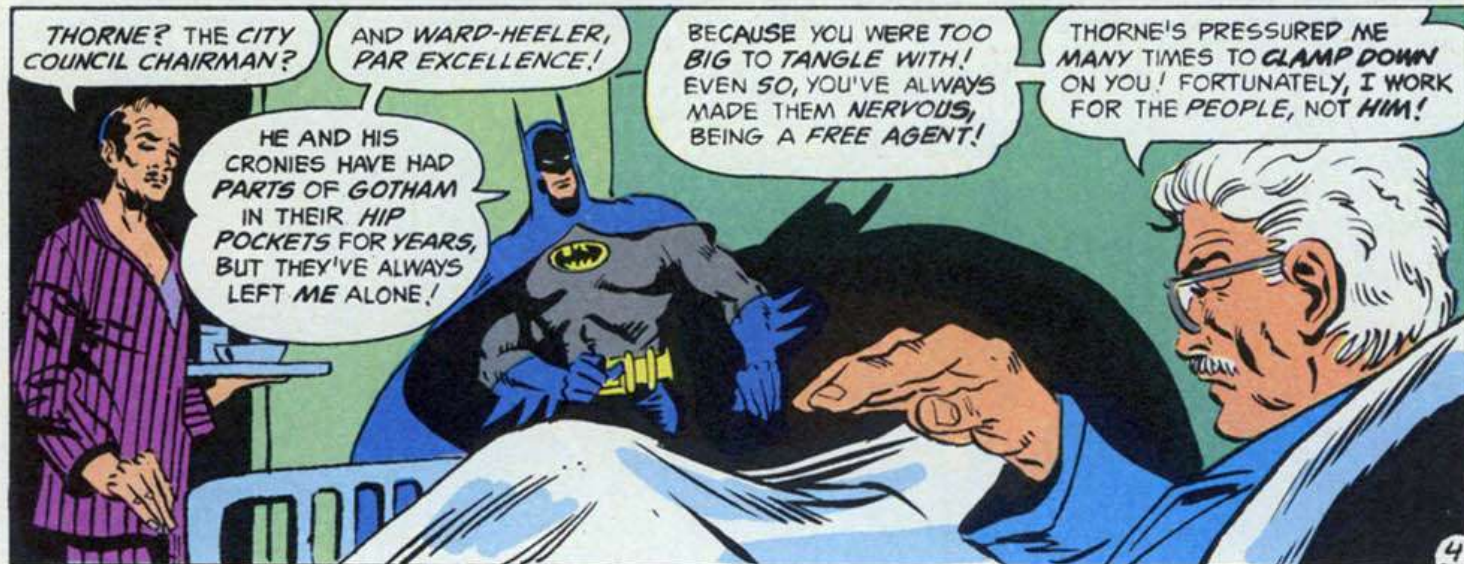
THORNE? THE CITY
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN?

AND WARD-HEELER,
PAR EXCELLENCE!

BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO
BIG TO TANGLE WITH!
EVEN SO, YOU'VE ALWAYS
MADE THEM **NERVOUS**,
BEING A **FREE AGENT!**

THORNE'S **PRESSED** ME
MANY TIMES TO **CLAMP DOWN**
ON YOU! FORTUNATELY, I WORK
FOR THE **PEOPLE**, NOT **HIM!**

HE AND HIS
CRONIES HAVE HAD
PARTS OF GOTHAM
IN THEIR **HIP**
POCKETS FOR YEARS,
BUT THEY'VE ALWAYS
LEFT **ME** ALONE!





BUT THE NIGHT WILL NOT BE ABANDONED TO SILENCE! EVEN AS DR. BELL'S FINAL CHALLENGE FADES ON A QUICKENING WIND, SHRILL SCREAMS RISE FROM GOTHAM'S SPRANG MEMORIAL ARENA, SOME THREE BLOCKS AWAY!...

BUT DON'T WORRY! THESE AREN'T SCREAMS OF TERROR!

AT LEAST...NOT YET!

WOP BOP A LU BOP A LOP BAM BOOM!

ALL RI-IIGHT!!

HELLO, GOTHAM CITY!

IT'S RILLY BEEN A GAS HERE TONIGHT!

THE BOYS AND I---KOFF! KOFF! KOFF!

KOFF!

CHILDREN OF GOTHAM CITY-- NOW HERE THIS!

PHOSPHORUS BURNS WHEN EXPOSED TO THE AIR, AND SENDS OUT POISONOUS FUMES!

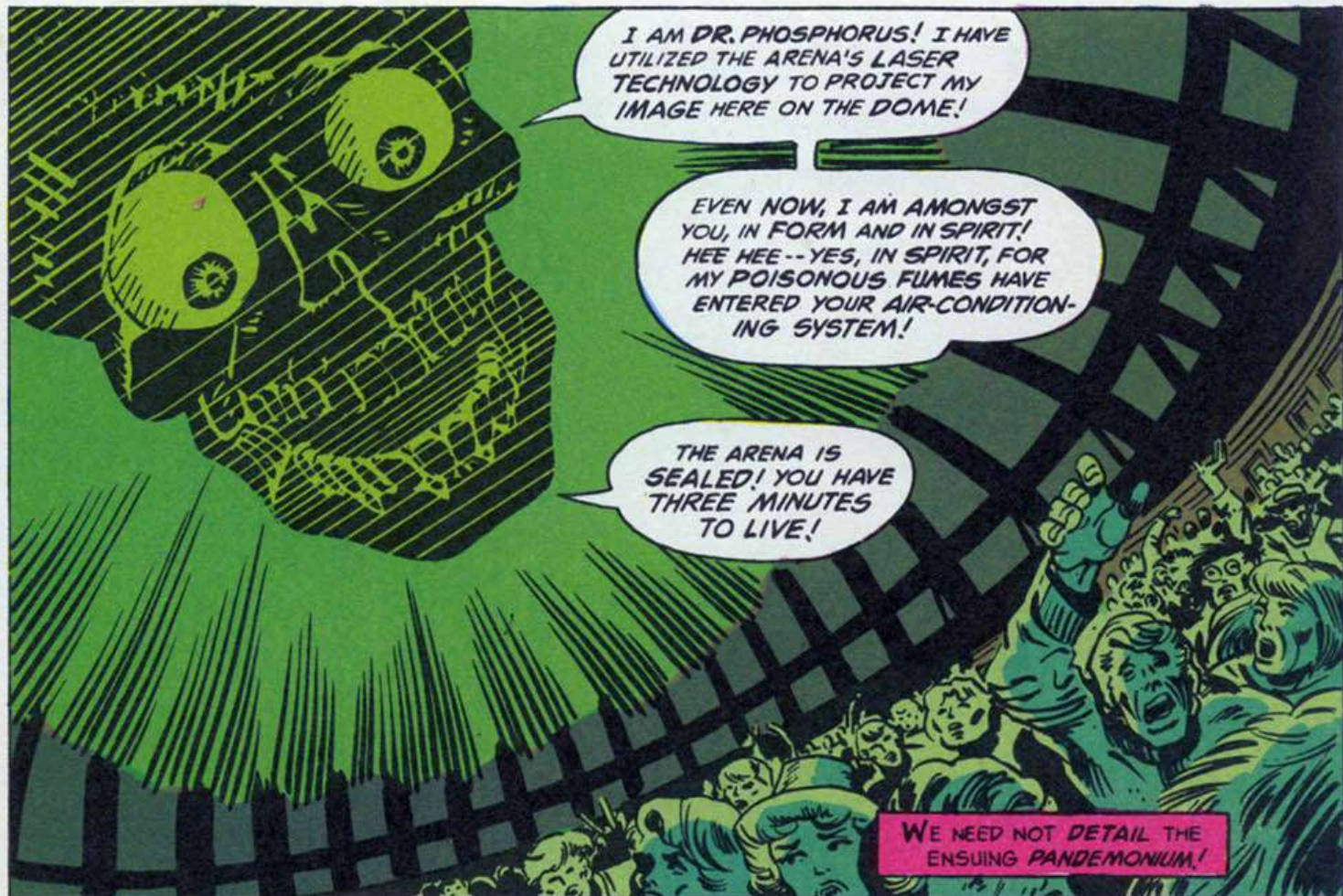
WHO'S THAT--?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE BAND--?

PHOSPHORUS! DON'TCHA GET IT?

YOU MEAN THE MANIAC--?

LOOK! UP THERE!



I AM DR. PHOSPHORUS! I HAVE UTILIZED THE ARENA'S LASER TECHNOLOGY TO PROJECT MY IMAGE HERE ON THE DOME!

EVEN NOW, I AM AMONGST YOU, IN FORM AND IN SPIRIT! HEE HEE--YES, IN SPIRIT, FOR MY POISONOUS FUMES HAVE ENTERED YOUR AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM!

THE ARENA IS SEALED! YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES TO LIVE!

WE NEED NOT DETAIL THE ENSUING PANDEMONIUM!

LET US RETIRE, RATHER, TO THE SANCTUARY OF THE WAYNE FOUNDATION, WHERE A PENSIVE PRINCE OF SHADOWS HAS ALREADY GONE!

LIKE A LOWERING STORMCLOUD, THE BATMAN HAS ROLLED THROUGH HIS MODERN OUTER OFFICE, INTO THE HIDDEN INTERIOR ELEVATOR--



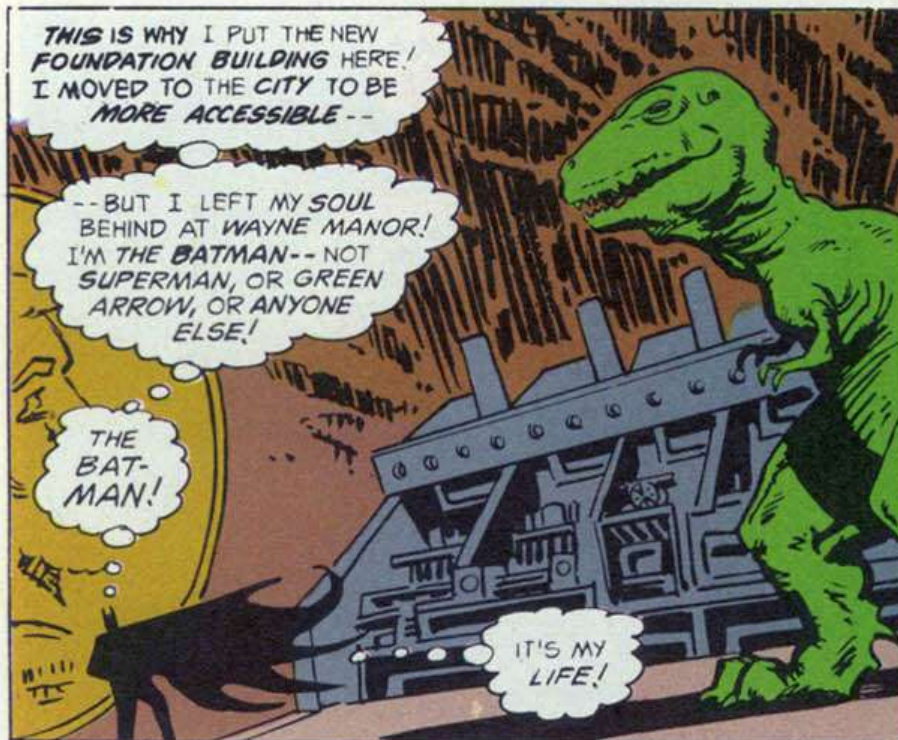
--AND NOW, HE DRIPS LIKE DRIVING RAIN!

HIS GOAL: THE BATCAVE!

IT COULD PASS FOR THE REAL ORIGINAL!

MAN, IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME!





THIS IS WHY I PUT THE NEW FOUNDATION BUILDING HERE! I MOVED TO THE CITY TO BE MORE ACCESSIBLE--

--BUT I LEFT MY SOUL BEHIND AT WAYNE MANOR! I'M THE BATMAN-- NOT SUPERMAN, OR GREEN ARROW, OR ANYONE ELSE!

THE BAT-MAN!

IT'S MY LIFE!

"ALFRED AND ROBIN GRUMBLED A GOOD DEAL AT HELPING ME MOVE ALL OUR TROPHIES INTO TOWN DURING ROBIN'S LAST SCHOOL BREAK--"



"--BUT I SUSPECT THEY WERE REALLY AS PLEASED TO HAVE THEM BACK AS I WAS!"



THE WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION*WANTED A SUBWAY HERE IN 1938! THEY GOT IT HALFWAY DUG IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS--

--AND THEN THE WAR BROKE OUT!

* GOVERNMENT GROUP OF THE TIME! -- JULIE



WHEN PEACE CAME IN '45, THE WPA WAS NO MORE! THE TUNNEL JUST SAT, GROWING STALACTITES, UNTIL I CAME ALONG!

FATE! IT'S FUNNY!



NOW THAT I'M COMPLETELY AT HOME IN GOTHAM--

--GOTHAM WANTS TO KICK ME OUT!



WELL, GOTHAM HAS A SURPRISE COMING!

WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'S WITH THE GEIGER COUNTER--?



IT'S REGISTERING RADIOACTIVITY-- ON ME! ALL AROUND MY BURNS!



THE MAN OF MYSTERY IS GOING TO FIND PHOSPHORUS!



THE NEW
NUCLEAR
POWER
PLANT-- BY
FAR, THE MOST
OBVIOUS
SOURCE.!

AND
BOSS
THORNE
HAD A
HAND
IN IT.!



ON MUFFLED
MOTORS, THE
BAT-BOAT
PURRS
INTO THE
SHADOWS...



...BUT...

THIS
RIG'S
NOT
CASUALLY
GUARDED!
WONDER
WHY?

WHAT'S WITH
THE *MUSCLE*, GUYS?
YOU KNOW WHO I AM.!



WE KNOW, BATMAN!
AND WE GOT OUR
ORDERS ON YOU.!

FROM THE
CITY.!

GOTHAM AIN'T
COOPERATIN'
WITH YOU
TONIGHT, *BATS*.!

SO I
SEE...!



I SEE
ONE
HECKUVA
LOT OF
GUARDS
AROUND
HERE.!

GOOD
NIGHT,
BOYS.!



I'LL BE
SEEING YOU
AGAIN.!









IT'S NOT THAT EASY,
PHOSPHORUS!

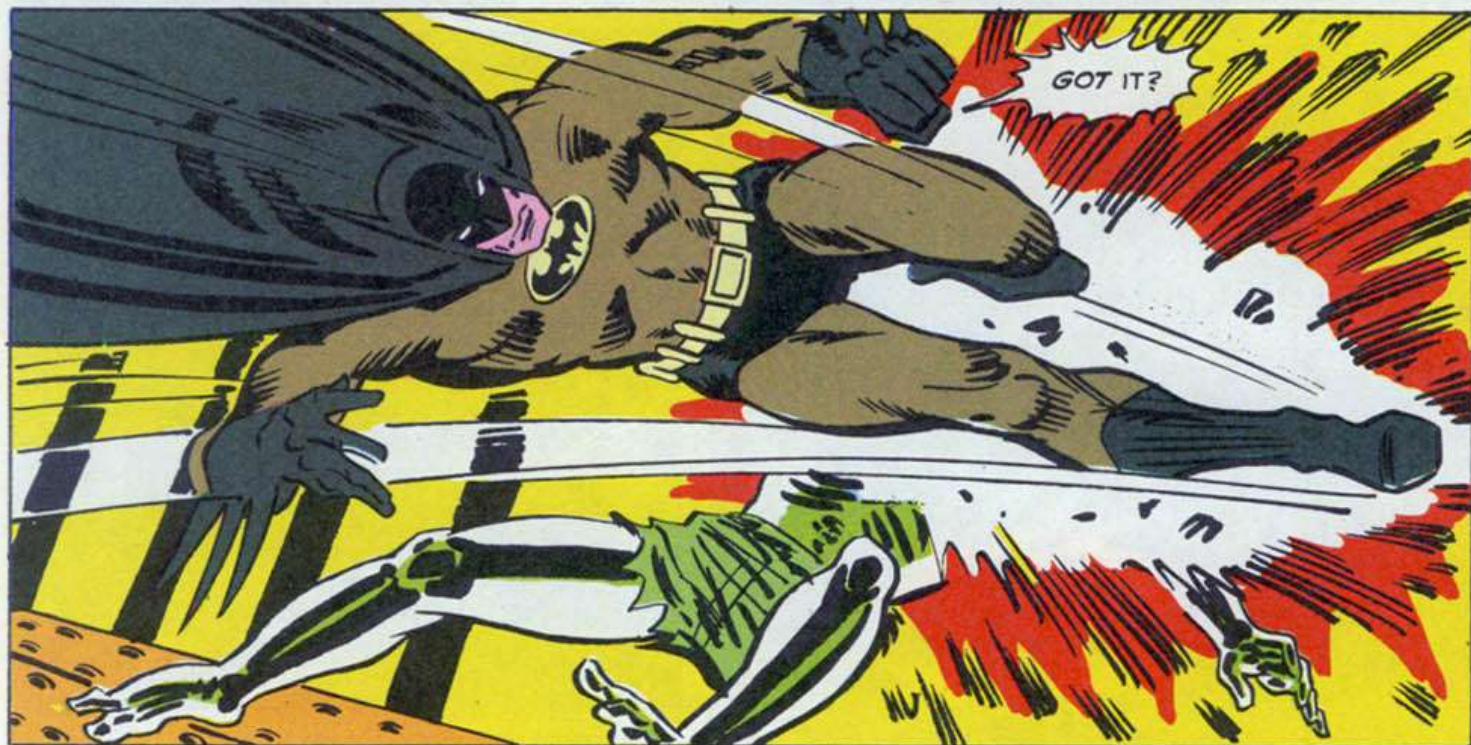
WE HAVE TOO
MUCH TO SETTLE
BETWEEN US!



MASSIVE RADIOACTIVITY'S
TOO HARD TO COME BY, AND
THIS PLACE WAS LOCKED UP
TOO TIGHTLY, TOO FAST!

YOU HAD
TO BE
HERE--

--AND I
CAME TO
FIGHT!



GOT IT?



YOU'RE A
FOOL TO
WANT ANOTHER
TOUCH OF MY
HANDS!

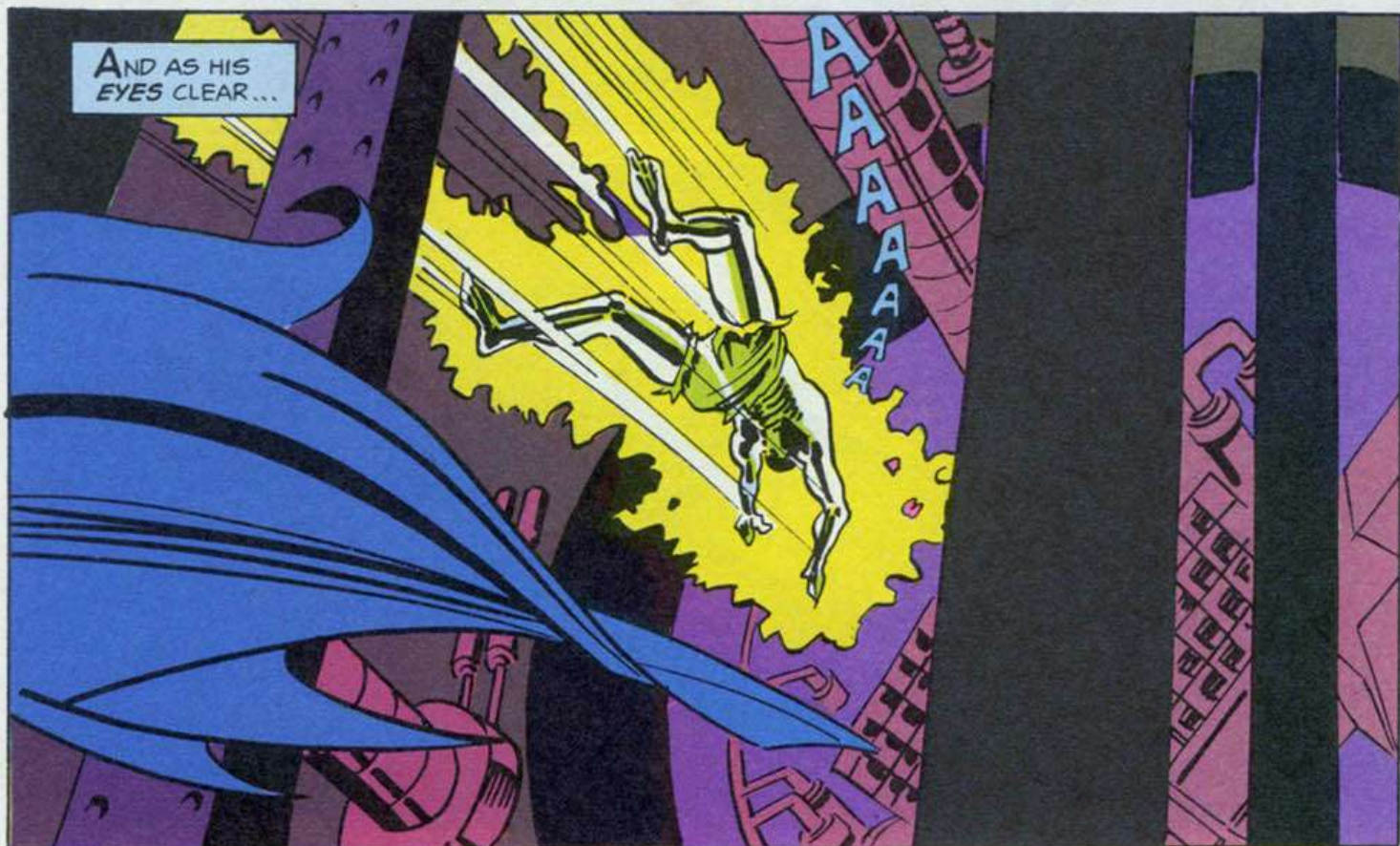
I DON'T,
PARTICULARLY--



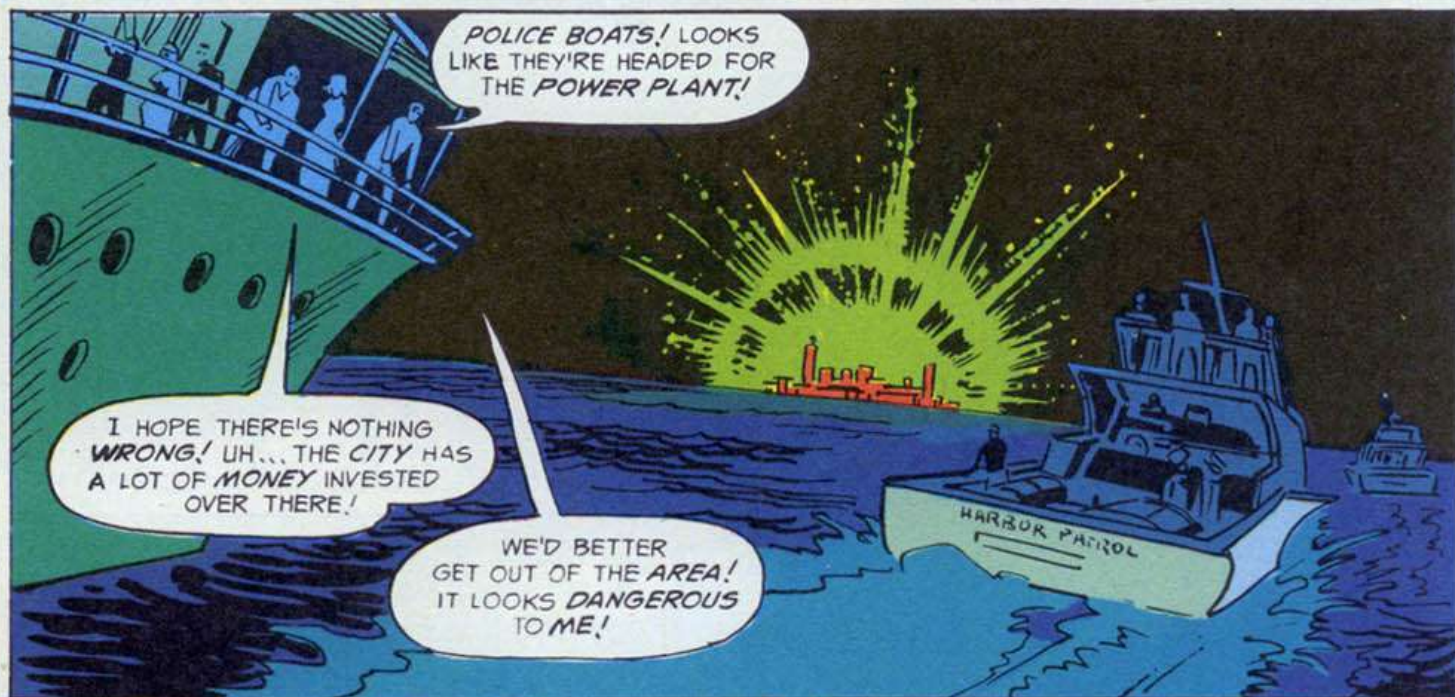
--AND I'M
NO FOOL!

THIS TIME, I'M WEARING
ONE OF MY SPECIAL
COSTUMES--RESISTANT
TO RADIOACTIVITY!





FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...





YOU COULD BE IN THE SUPERMAN MOVIE
--DETAILS INSIDE--

NO. 471 AUG. 35¢
30465



BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS



YOU-!?

YES, BATMAN--
THE DEAD
YET LIVE!

ROGERS/
Austin



ANOTHER BATMAN CLASSIC BY STEVE ENGLEHART, AUTHOR

NOW TEAMED WITH
MARSHALL ROGERS &
TERRY AUSTIN,
ARTISTS

PLUS
MARSHALL ROGERS
COLORIST

WITH
JOHN
WORKMAN,
LETTERER

AND
JULIUS
SCHWARZ,
EDITOR

ORPHANED AS A CHILD
WHEN A GUNMAN
MURDERED HIS PARENTS,
BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED
HIMSELF TO WAGE
RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST
CRIME. MASQUERADING BY
DAY AS A MILLIONAIRE-MAN-
ABOUT-TOWN, HE PROWLs
THE NIGHT TO PREY ON
THE VERMIN OF THE
UNDERWORLD
AS THE DREAD...

BAT MAN

CREATED
BY:

BOB
KANE

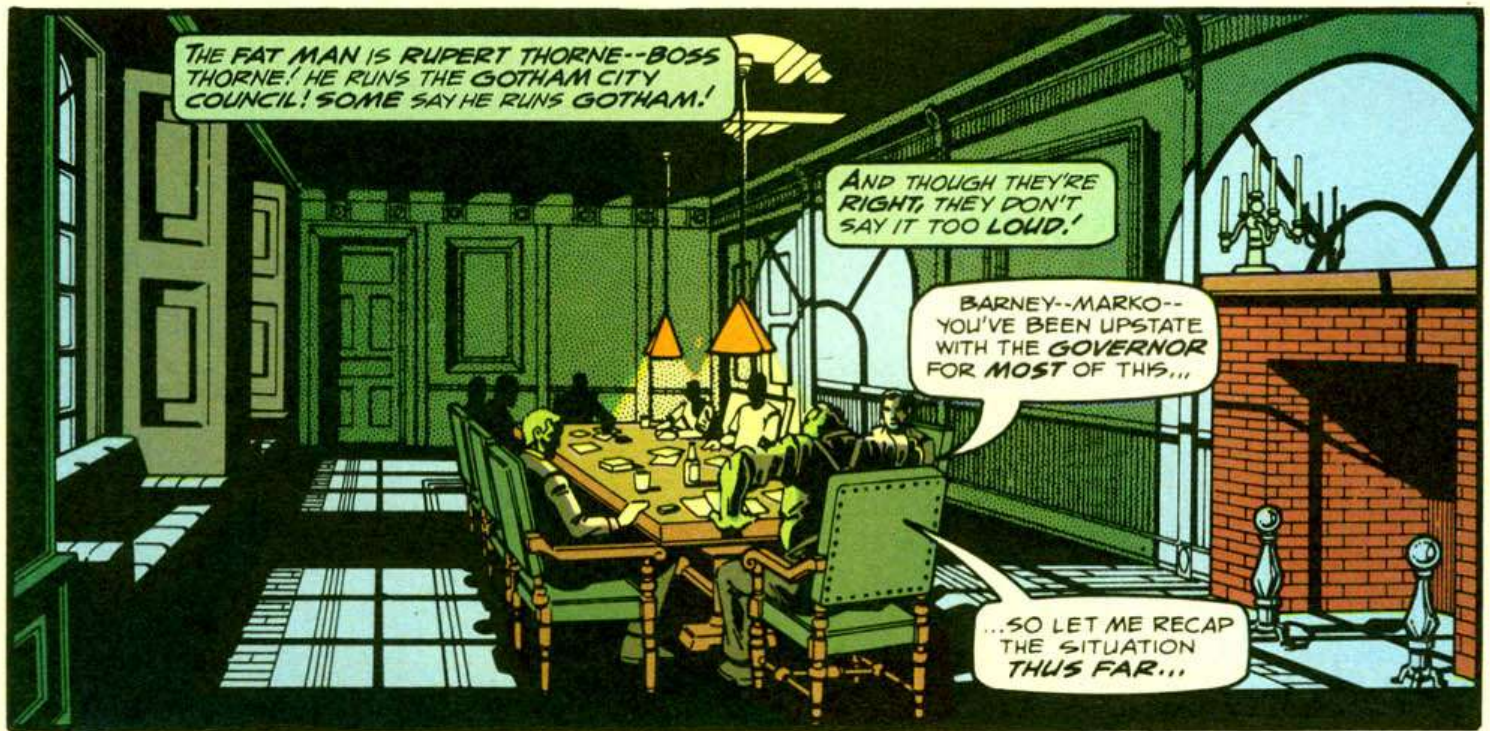
THEN WE'RE
AGREED,
GENTLEMEN!

DR. PHOSPHORUS IS MISSING AND
PRESUMED DEAD, BUT OUR COURSE
REMAINS CLEAR--

--THE BATMAN MUST GO!

MENACE HANGS AS THICK
AS SMOKE IN THIS
CLUSTERED, CLOISTERED
CHAMBER --AND YET
THIS IS BUT A PRELUDE
TO AN EVEN GREATER
TERROR LYING IN WAIT!
ALL TOO SOON, THE
BATMAN MUST LEARN
THAT...

THE DEAD YET LIVE

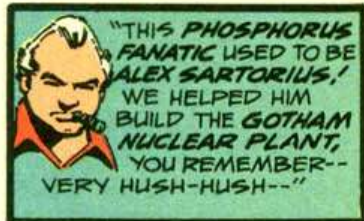


THE FAT MAN IS RUPERT THORNE--BOSS THORNE! HE RUNS THE GOTHAM CITY COUNCIL! SOME SAY HE RUNS GOTHAM!

AND THOUGH THEY'RE RIGHT, THEY DON'T SAY IT TOO LOUD!

BARNEY--MARKO-- YOU'VE BEEN UPSTATE WITH THE GOVERNOR FOR MOST OF THIS...

...SO LET ME RECAP THE SITUATION THUS FAR...



"THIS PHOSPHORUS FANATIC USED TO BE ALEX SARTORIUS! WE HELPED HIM BUILD THE GOTHAM NUCLEAR PLANT, YOU REMEMBER-- VERY HUSH-HUSH--"



"--BUT WHEN HE HAD THAT ACCIDENT LAST YEAR, HE BLAMED US!"



"HE SWORE VENGEANCE ON THE WHOLE CITY, AND WHEN THE BATMAN GOT IN HIS WAY--"

"--HE BLACKMAILED US INTO CRACKING DOWN ON THE CAPED CRUSADER!"



"IT PUT US IN THE AWKWARD POSITION OF HELPING THAT MADMAN DESTROY GOTHAM-- BUT HE WOULD HAVE DESTROYED US, HAD WE REFUSED!"*

*AS DETAILED IN THE LAST ISSUE --JULIE



NOW, FORTUNATELY, HE'S VANISHED! YET HIS LEGACY LINGERS...

EVERY YEAR, THIS CITY GETS HARDER TO CONTROL! IF OUR FINANCIAL TROUBLES HAVE TAUGHT US ANYTHING, IT'S THAT GOVERNMENT MUST ACT MORE DECISIVELY!

WE WILL HAVE TO CUT EVEN MORE CORNERS THAN WE ALREADY HAVE--



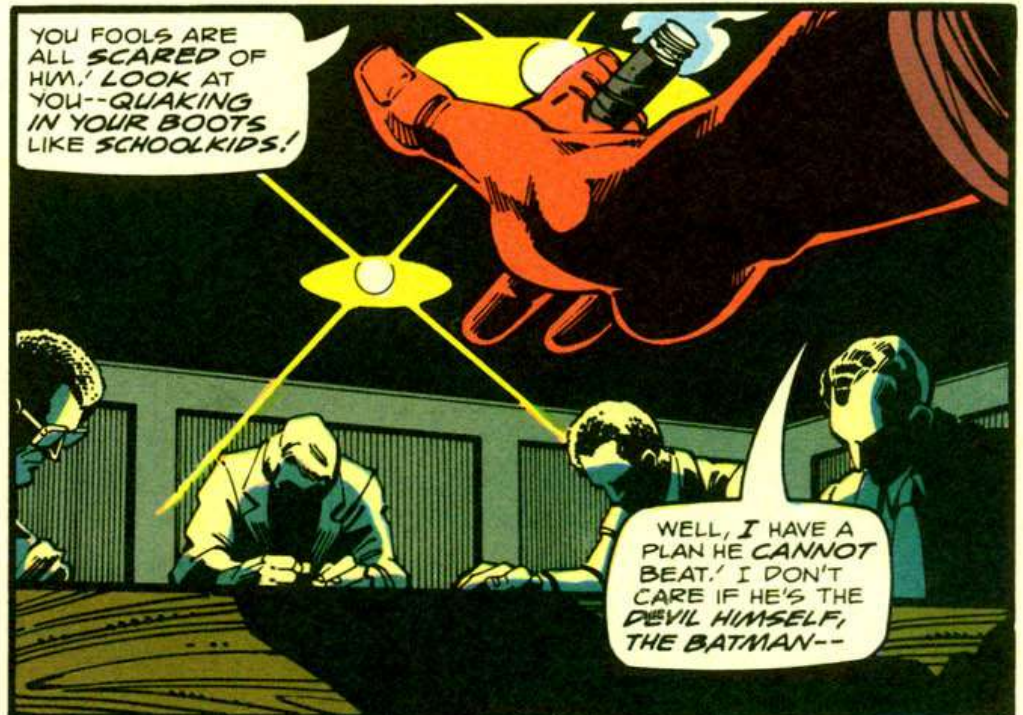
--AND THAT WILL BE DIFFICULT WITH A SELF-APPOINTED LAWMAN LOOSE ON THE STREETS!

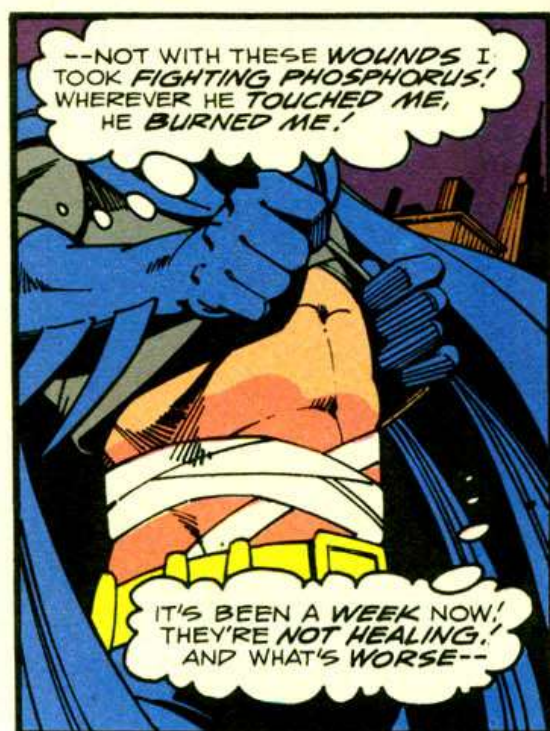
THE POLICE WE CAN HANDLE--

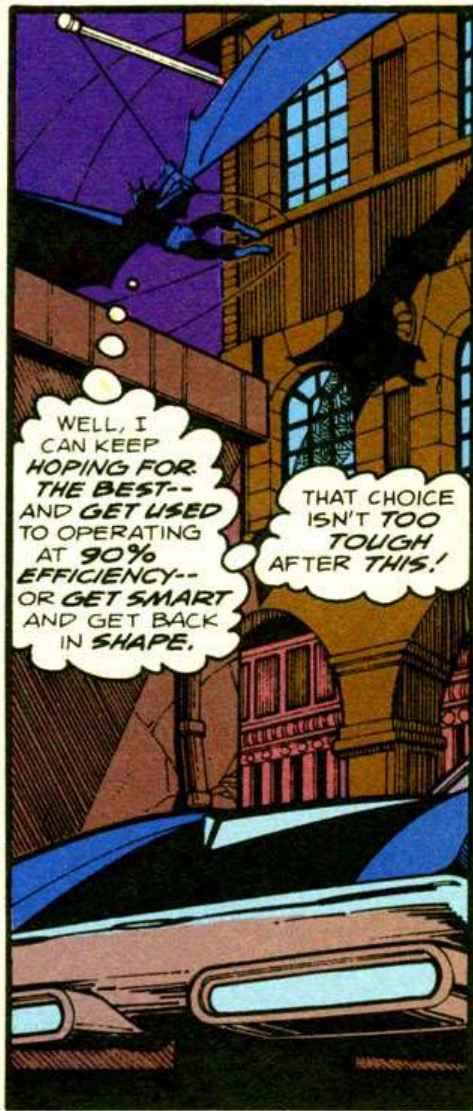
--I CAN BURY COMMISSIONER GORDON UNDER NEW REGULATIONS WITH A PHONE CALL--



--BUT THE TIME HAS COME TO KISS THE BATMAN GOODBYE!







WELL, I CAN KEEP HOPING FOR THE BEST-- AND GET USED TO OPERATING AT 90% EFFICIENCY-- OR GET SMART AND GET BACK IN SHAPE.

THAT CHOICE ISN'T TOO TOUGH AFTER THIS!

A FLASH OF **SHADOW** IN THE NIGHT, THE **BATMOBILE** ROCKETS AWAY THROUGH THE CITY'S SLEEPING **SIDE STREETS**--



--LEAVING THE IMPASSIVE ROWS OF ANCIENT **BROWNSTONES**--



--FOR **GOTHAM'S** HUMBLER DISTRICTS, WHERE THE **WAYNE** FOUNDATION TOWERS ABOVE THE LOWER, LEANER SKYLINE--



--AND ONLY **WELL-WORN** WAREHOUSES BEAR SILENT WITNESS TO THE DOINGS--

--IN THE **CUL-DE-SAC** CALLED **FINGER ALLEY**!



MOMENTS LATER, IN THE REBORN **BATCAVE** BENEATH THE **WAYNE** BUILDING...

BUT, **SIR**! IF THE **CITY COUNCIL** IS PLANNING TO MOVE AGAINST YOU--

RUPERT THORNE'S PLAN MUST INCLUDE MY **FIGHTING BACK**, **ALFRED**! UNTIL I DO, THE **WAR'S** NOT OVER--SO HE CAN WAIT!

THESE WOUNDS CAN'T!

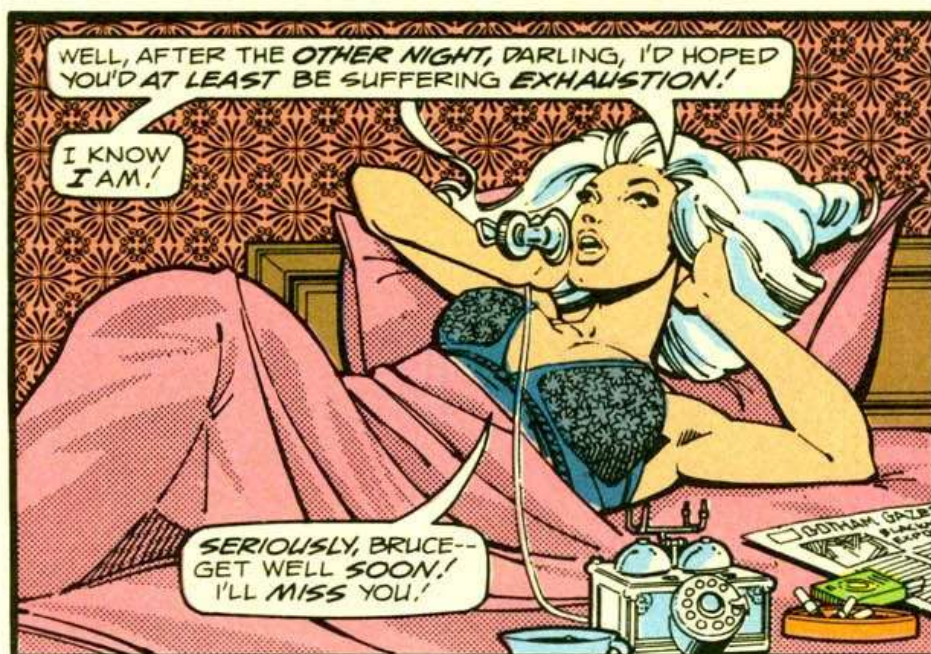


YOU DRANK WATER LACED WITH **RADIOACTIVE PHOSPHORUS** AND **SCIENCE** CURED YOU--*

--BUT I'VE BEEN MY OWN **DOCTOR** UNTIL TONIGHT, AND MY **SCIENCE** DOESN'T EXTEND THAT FAR!

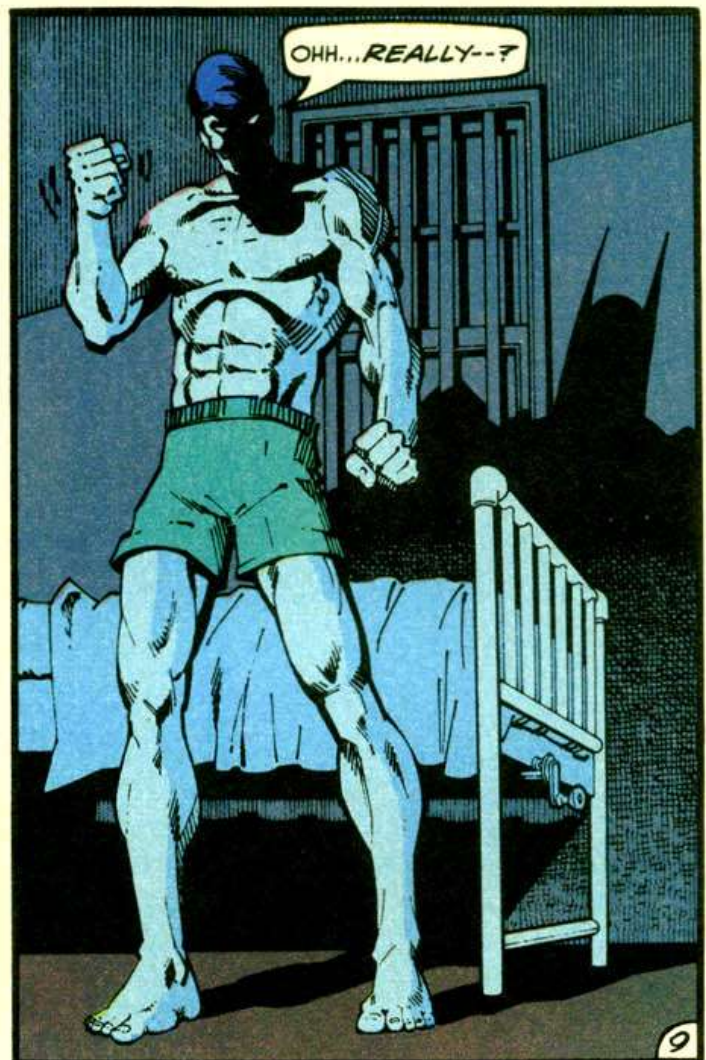
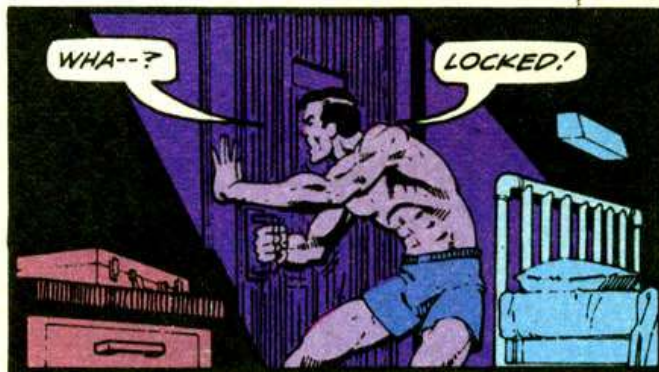
YOU MEAN-- YOU PLAN TO SEEK AN **OUTSIDE** DOCTOR?

*LAST ISSUE--Julie









TRAP **BRUCE WAYNE**, IDLE PLAYBOY
PHILANTHROPIST--AND YOU TRAP THE
MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN
GOTHAM, TOO!

KEENLY AWARE OF POSSIBLE
HIDDEN EYES, THE **BATMAN**
BEGINS TO FIGURE HIS WAY OUT!

WHILE, OUTSIDE, THE SUN HAS FALLEN LOW IN THE WEST,
TO PAINT **SILVER ST. CLOUD** A DELICATE **GOLD**!

THAT'S
GRAYTOWERS?

I THOUGHT I **KNEW** EVERY HIP
BUILDING IN THE **CANAL ZONE**!*

*A SECTION OF **GOTHAM** ON AN OLD CANAL.--Julie

WELL, **GOOD**! SOME PEOPLE
JUST **HATE** THIS TOWN, BUT
I **LOVE** IT! THERE'S
ALWAYS SOMETHING **NEW**!

TRUST **BRUCE** TO FIND A
PLACE LIKE **THIS** FOR A
HOSPITAL!

OH, HI! I'M
VISITING
BRUCE WAYNE!

BRUCE WAYNE--?

YES...MR. **WAYNE**! I'M **SORRY**, MISS,
BUT MR. **WAYNE** CANNOT RECEIVE
VISITORS AT THE **PRESENT** TIME!

HUH? I THOUGHT
HE WAS JUST HERE
FOR **TESTS**!

WHAT'S THE
MATTER
WITH HIM?

I'M **VERY SORRY**, MISS! OUR EXAMINATIONS
INDICATE **RADIATION POISONING**!

RADIATION--
POISONING?

HE'LL BE
UNDER OUR
INTENSIVE
CARE FOR AT
LEAST A **WEEK**,
I'M **AFRAID**!

I'LL SEE THAT HE
RECEIVES YOUR
GIFT! **GOOD**
AFTERNOON!

IN THE NEXT TWO HOURS, THE DAY-WORLD DIES,
AND THE NIGHT-WORLD FLOWS IN WITH ITS
NEONS, SATINS, AND SABLES...

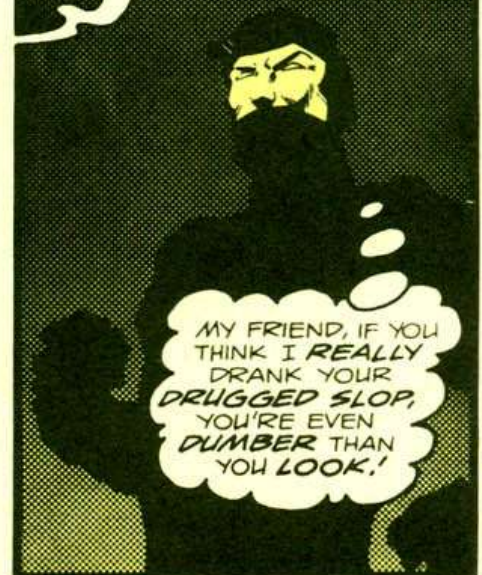


HERE, HANDSOME!
THE REST OF
THIS SWILL IS
FOR YOU!



AWRIGHT! CRACK
WISE! BUT IF I
HEAR A PEEP OUTA
YOU TONIGHT,
I'LL CRACK YOU
IN TWO!

SLEEP, NOW!
JUST LIE DOWN
AND SLEEP!



WITH A HOLLOW BOOM,
THE BOLT SLAMS SHUT
OUTSIDE--MASKING THE
POP OF A SECRET
PANEL IN THE LID OF A
STYLISH SUITCASE...

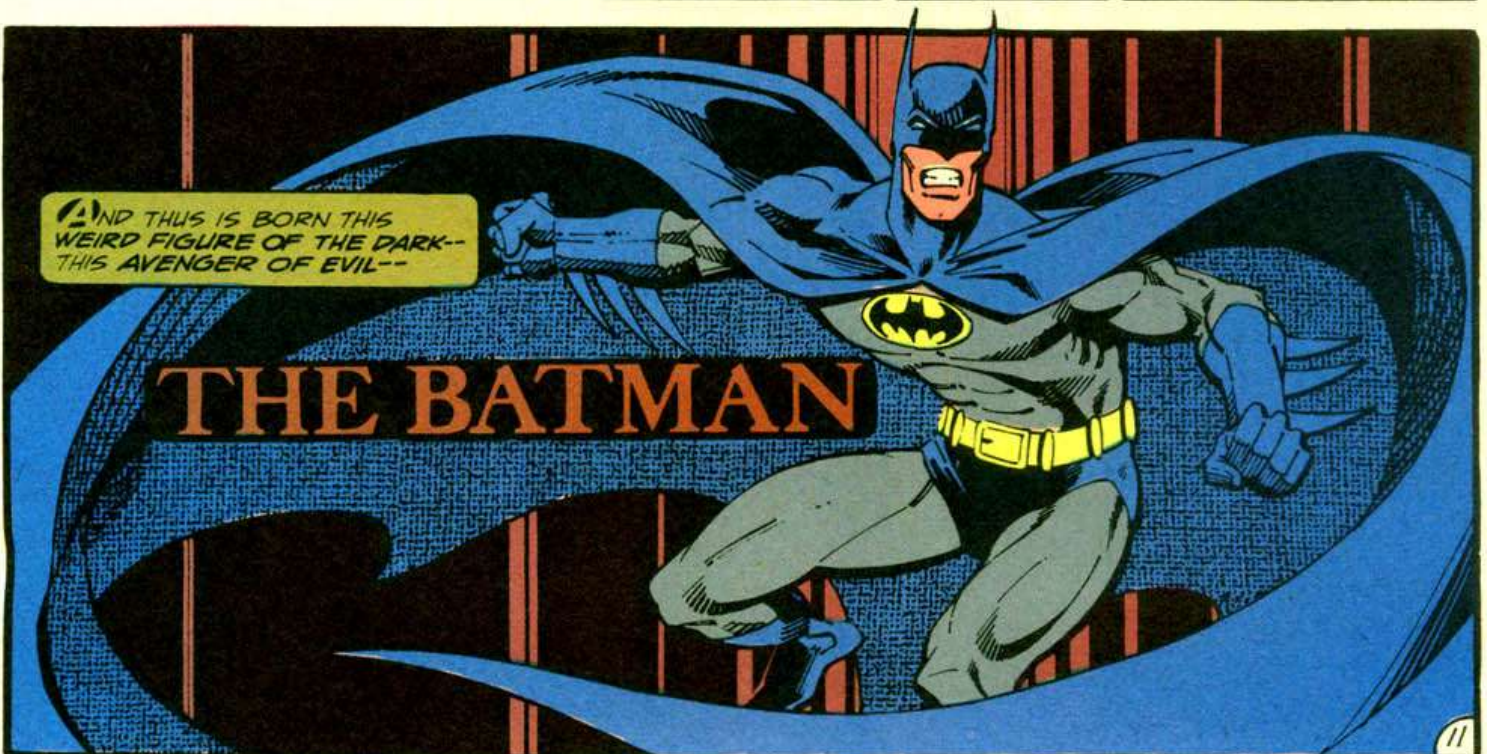


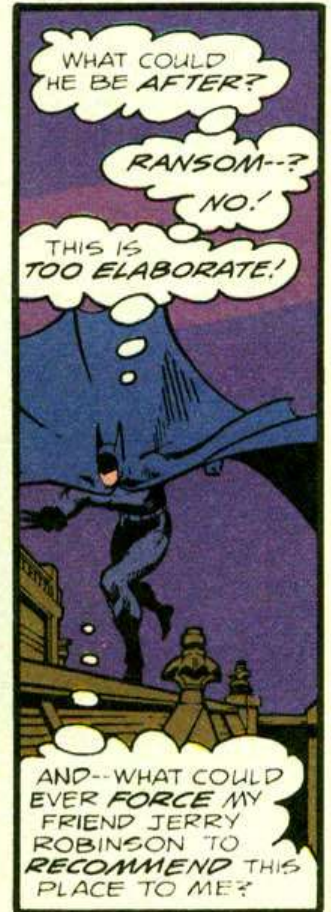
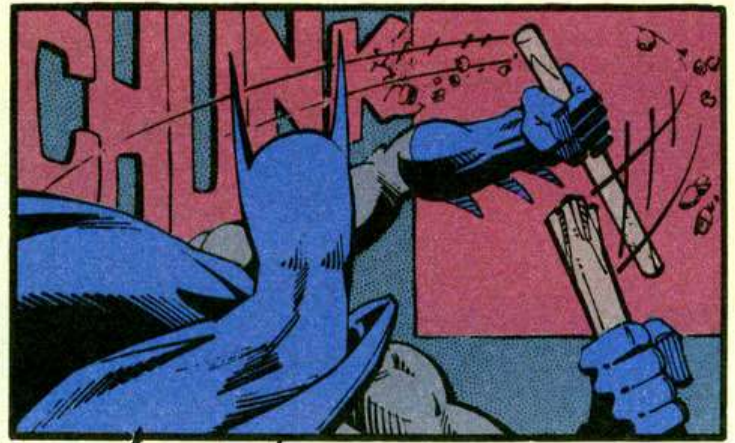
COULDN'T
WEAR THIS TO
A MEDICAL
EXAM, BUT
IT'S
ALWAYS
AROUND!



AND THIS IS BORN THIS
WEIRD FIGURE OF THE DARK--
THIS AVENGER OF EVIL--

THE BATMAN







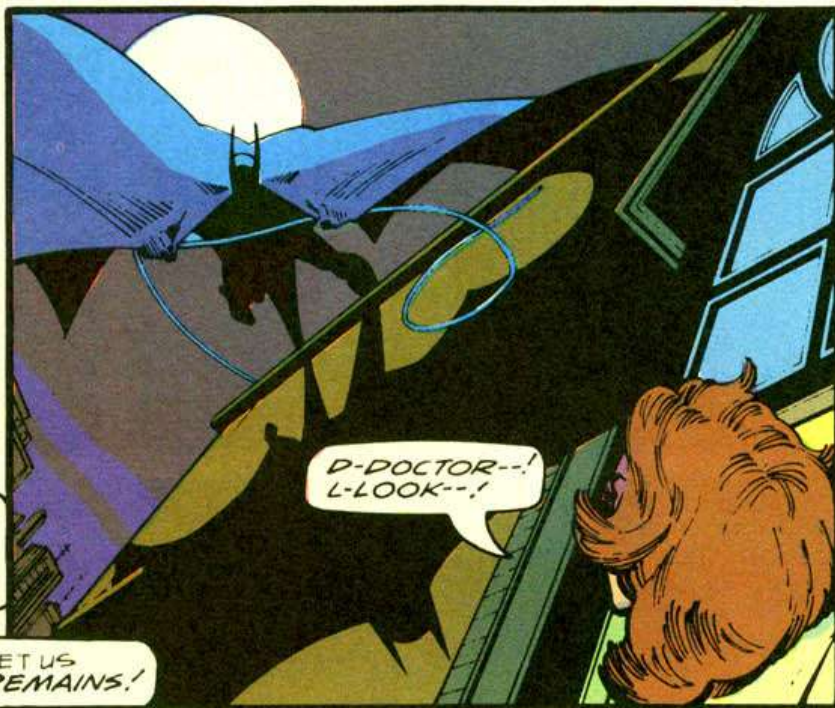


WHAT IS HAPPENING
ON THE ROOF, DOCTOR?

A PROWLER,
MAGDA--

--A
PROWLER
WHO HAS
MET MY
MONSTERS!

COME--LET US
VIEW THE REMAINS!



D-DOCTOR--!
L-LOOK--!



WHA--?
THE BATMAN!



I'VE BEEN
ON YOUR
TRAIL FOR
WEEKS,
TODHUNTER!

TONIGHT, I'M
SMASHING YOUR
SCHEME FOR GOOD!

NO! YOU'RE LYING!
I DON'T KNOW WHY,
BUT YOU ARE!

YOU'RE TOO GOOD
A DETECTIVE--



--TO UNCOVER MY
PLOT AND NOT ME--
TOO GOOD NOT TO
HAVE LEARNED--



--WHO I REALLY AM!

PROFESSOR HUGO STRANGE!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!*

*SINCE ALL THE WAY BACK IN DETECTIVE NUMBER 46, NO LESS!-- Julie



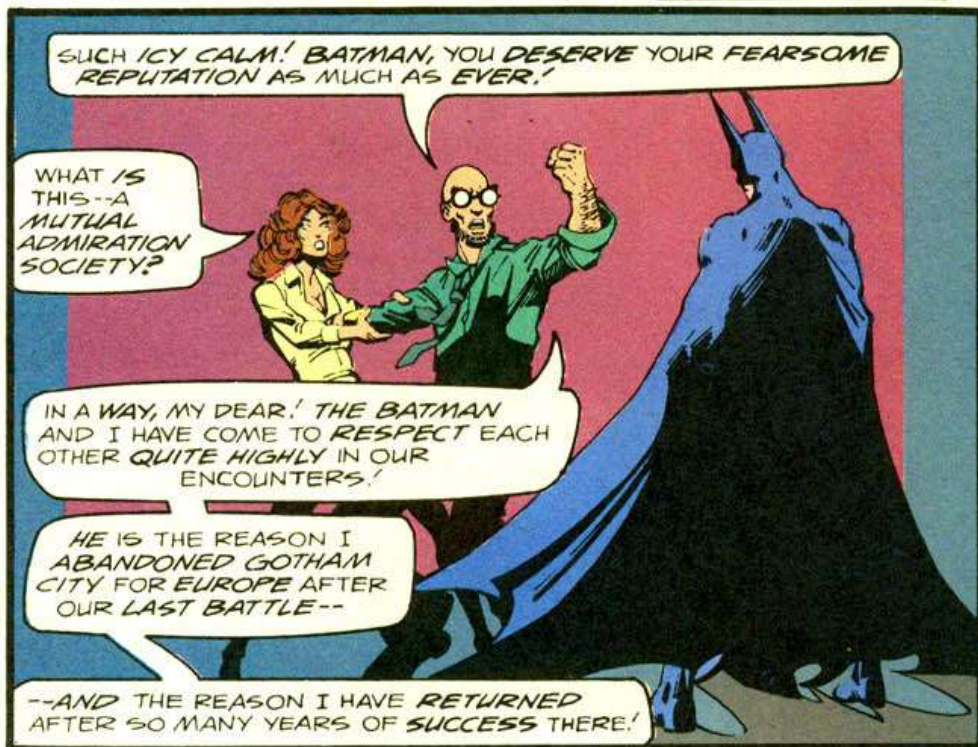
BUT I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER!



YOU ALWAYS WERE ONE FOR MIRACULOUS RETURNS--

--AND YOU'VE TURNED MEN INTO MONSTERS BEFORE!*

*BATMAN (BELIEVE IT OR NOT) NUMBER 1! --Julie



SUCH ICY CALM! BATMAN, YOU DESERVE YOUR FEARSOME REPUTATION AS MUCH AS EVER!

WHAT IS THIS--A MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY?

IN A WAY, MY DEAR! THE BATMAN AND I HAVE COME TO RESPECT EACH OTHER QUITE HIGHLY IN OUR ENCOUNTERS!

HE IS THE REASON I ABANDONED GOTHAM CITY FOR EUROPE AFTER OUR LAST BATTLE--

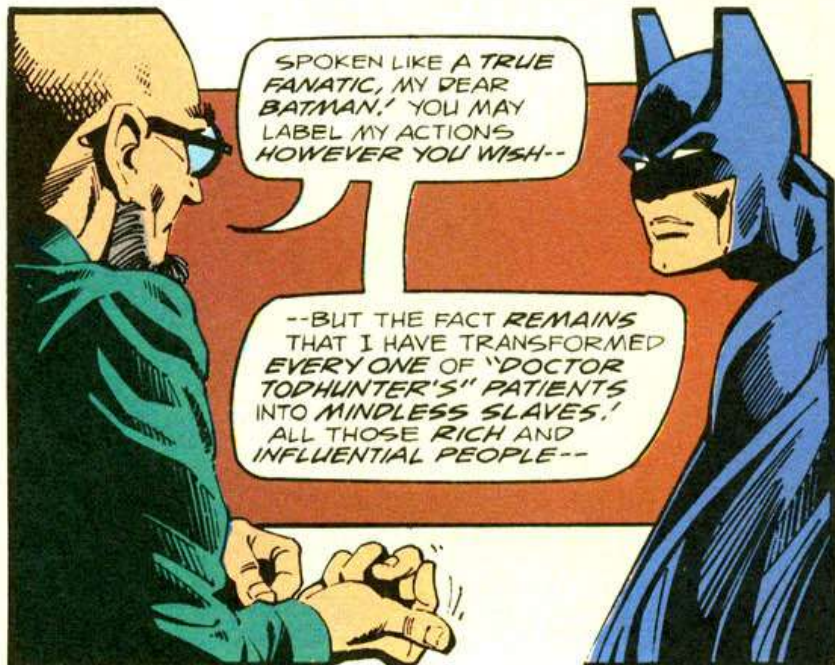
--AND THE REASON I HAVE RETURNED AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF SUCCESS THERE!



ONLY THE BATMAN CAN OFFER HUGO STRANGE A CHALLENGE!

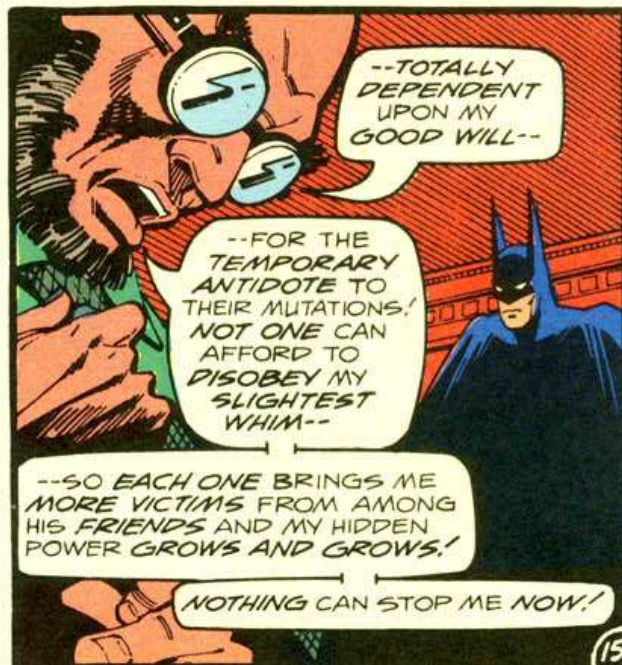
TRULY, MAGDA, A LIFE OF GENIUS IS A LONELY ONE!

--IF THE GENIUS IS EVIL, STRANGE!



SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE FANATIC, MY DEAR BATMAN! YOU MAY LABEL MY ACTIONS HOWEVER YOU WISH--

--BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT I HAVE TRANSFORMED EVERYONE OF "DOCTOR TODHUNTER'S" PATIENTS INTO MINDLESS SLAVES! ALL THOSE RICH AND INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE--



--TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON MY GOOD WILL--

--FOR THE TEMPORARY ANTIDOTE TO THEIR MUTATIONS! NOT ONE CAN AFFORD TO DISOBEY MY SLIGHTEST WHIM--

--SO EACH ONE BRINGS ME MORE VICTIMS FROM AMONG HIS FRIENDS AND MY HIDDEN POWER GROWS AND GROWS!

NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!





THE GREEN MAMBA--
DEADLIEST REPTILE IN
ALL THE WORLD!

ITS BITE
BRINGS
COMA IN
SECONDS!

QUICK,
MAGDA--
THE ANTI-
VENOM!



I WANT THIS
LAWMAN
STOPPED...

...BUT NOT
DEAD!

I HAVE
PLANS
FOR HIM!

HOW LONG THE DARKNESS LASTS,
THE BATMAN CANNOT SAY...

...BUT, IN
TIME, IT
TURNS TO
GRAY--

--AND
PULSES WITH
HIS PAIN!

YET--WAIT!
SOMETHING
IS VERY
WRONG!

WHAT HE SEES
IS NOT THROUGH
SLITS--!



YES, MY FRIEND--
YOU NO LONGER
WEAR YOUR MASK!
I SAW MY CHANCE
AND SEIZED IT!

YOUR SECRETS
ARE SECRETS
NO LONGER--

BRUCE WAYNE!



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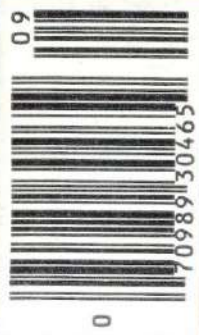


BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS

THE
BATMAN
IS
DEAD

LONG
LIVE
THE
NEW
BATMAN

ROGERS x
austin



YOU COULD BE IN THE
SUPERMAN MOVIE
---DETAILS INSIDE---

ORPHANED AS A CHILD
WHEN A GUNMAN
MURDERED HIS PARENTS,
BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED
HIMSELF TO WAGE
RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST
CRIME. MASQUERADING BY
DAY AS A MILLIONAIRE-MAN-
ABOUT-TOWN, HE PROWL
THE NIGHT TO PREY ON
THE VERMIN OF THE
UNDERWORLD
AS THE DREAD...

BATMAN

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

BEFORE YOU STANDS
THE BATMAN,
DREAD STALKER OF
THE SHADOWS...

...YET THIS IS
BUT A MASK!

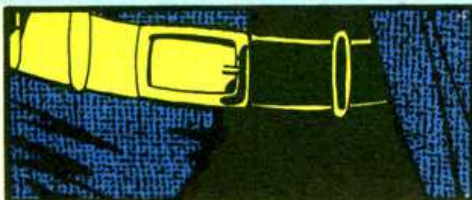
BENEATH THE FEARSOME
COWL IS BRUCE WAYNE,
RICH PLAYBOY DABBLER...

...AND YET
THIS, TOO, IS
A MASK!

FOR NOW, PROFESSOR
HUGO STRANGE HAS
REPLACED THEM!
FROM THIS MOMENT ON--

**I AM THE
BATMAN!**

A BAT-TALE LIKE NONE BEFORE IT--BROUGHT TO YOU BY STEVE ENGLEHART•STORY;
MARSHALL ROGERS AND TERRY AUSTIN•ART; JOHN WORKMAN•LETTERS; MARSHALL ROGERS•COLORS
JULIE SCHWARTZ•EDITOR





MARVELOUS, DOCTOR! YOU DID THE TWO FALSE VOICES PERFECTLY!

I WOULD NEVER HAVE GUESSED!

BUT OF COURSE, MAGDA! EVEN THE BATMAN HAS ACKNOWLEDGED MY GENIUS-- THROUGH CLENCHED TEETH!

NONE BUT HUGO STRANGE COULD DO WHAT I HAVE DONE!



WAS I NOT ALSO DR. TODHUNTER, WHO OPENED GRAYTOWERS CLINIC TO PREY ON WEALTHY FOOLS--

--KNOWING FULL WELL THAT SOME DARK NIGHT, MY SCHEMES FOR POWER WOULD DRAW THE BATMAN AS WELL!



EVERY DEFENSE AT MY COMMAND-- FROM MY MONSTERS TO MY SERPENTS-- WAS TRAINED TO STRIKE AT THE SIGN OF THE BAT! SOONER OR LATER, HE WOULD COME TO ME-- AND NEVER LEAVE!

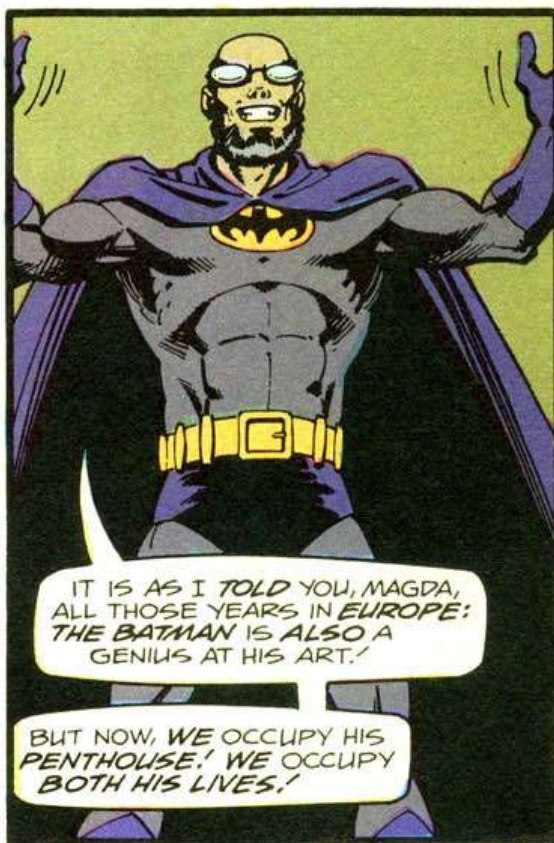


THEN, I WOULD LEARN MY GREATEST FOE'S GREATEST SECRET! BUT NOT EVEN HUGO STRANGE COULD GUESS THAT THE BATMAN WAS ONE OF MY WEALTHY FOOLS!

BRUCE WAYNE, SUFFERING FROM RADIATION POISONING --AT THE HANDS OF DR. PHOSPHORUS, CERTAINLY! BRUCE WAYNE--!

WHO WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT? *

*AS YOU MAY HAVE GATHERED, A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST THREE 'ENGLEHART' STORIES! --JULIE



IT IS AS I TOLD YOU, MAGDA, ALL THOSE YEARS IN EUROPE: THE BATMAN IS ALSO A GENIUS AT HIS ART!

BUT NOW, WE OCCUPY HIS PENTHOUSE! WE OCCUPY BOTH HIS LIVES!



I SHALL PLUNDER THE WAYNE FOUNDATION FOR MILLIONS, EVEN AS I SEND THE BATMAN TOWARD A LINGERING DEATH! I HAVE WON OUR WAR!

NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!



3 BUT ALL THIS MAY BE TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE! IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, HUGO STRANGE MOVES TO MAKE GOOD ON HIS VOW--

--FIRST, RETREATING FROM PUBLIC VIEW IN A MANNER TO RIVAL HOWARD HUGHES...

I'M SORRY, MR. GOULD! MR. WAYNE HAS CANCELLED ALL HIS APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK!

--THEN, ISSUING ORDERS THAT WHIP THE STOCK MARKETS OF THREE CONTINENTS INTO MURDEROUS FRENZY!

YOU HEARD ME, HUTTON! UNLOAD ALL MY NBM AND ROXXON!

I WANT THE CHECK IN MY OFFICE BY TOMORROW NOON!

NO ONE QUESTIONS BRUCE WAYNE--AND, WITH ALL THE FINANCIERS WHO SOUGHT HELP AT GRAYTOWERS NEEDING THE ANTIDOTE TO MY MONSTER SERUM AND FORCED TO BACK MY PLAY--

--I'LL BANKRUPT THIS FOUNDATION IN TWO WEEKS-- THEN LIVE IN LUXURY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

MAGDA! HOW FARES OUR COMATOSE CAPTIVE?

THE SAME, DOCTOR! HIS BUTLER CARES FOR HIM CONTINUALLY!

GOOD! HE MUST BE PRESERVED UNTIL I HAVE FINISHED HERE! THEN--

SURPRISE, DARLING!

NAME OF THE DEVIL! IT'S THE GIRL WHO CAME TO VISIT WAYNE AT THE CLINIC!

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WERE HOME, BRUCE! I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU BACK FOR A WEEK!

IF YOU WEREN'T CREATING SUCH A STIR ON WALL STREET, I'D STILL BE PINING AWAY!

SHE AND WAYNE MUST BE FRIENDS--OR WORSE!



THE--AH--
KEY I GAVE
YOU WORKS,
I SEE!

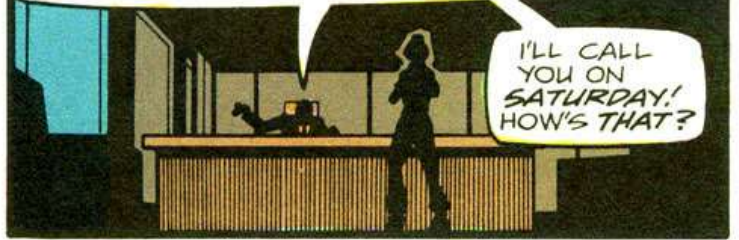
WHAT IN THE
WORLD IS
HER NAME?

THAT'S RIGHT! JUST
LIKE LAST TIME!

OH, SURE!

WELL, BUT--I REALLY HAVE TO GET
BACK TO WORK! I STAND TO CLOSE
THE BIGGEST DEAL OF MY LIFE IF I
CAN RAISE THE MONEY IN TIME!

I'LL CALL
YOU ON
SATURDAY!
HOW'S THAT?



EYES NARROWING, SILVER ST. CLOUD
LEANS LOW ACROSS THE DESK...



THAT'S NOT TOO GOOD,
BRUCE! WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU ARE DIRECT, AREN'T
YOU? WELL, TO BE EQUALLY
BLUNT, I'M BREAKING IT
OFF! WE'RE FINISHED!

SO THAT'S IT?
SO LONG, SILVER--
IT'S BEEN LAUGHS?

SILVER!

WHY, YOU
BIG HAM!

WHO DO YOU
THINK YOU ARE?



NOW,
SILVER....!

NOT ANOTHER WORD!
I'VE HEARD ALL I WANT
TO HEAR FROM YOU!



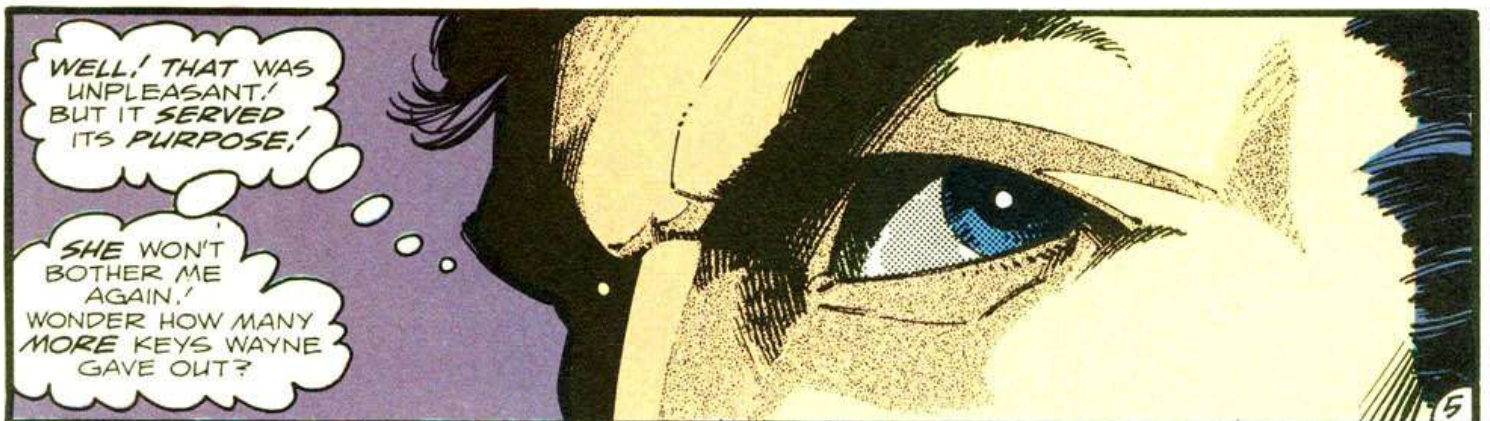
I JUST
HOPE THE
NEXT
GIRL
BELIEVES
YOUR
PLAYBOY
REPUTATION--

--INSTEAD OF
YOUR LYING
EYES!



WELL! THAT WAS
UNPLEASANT!
BUT IT SERVED
ITS PURPOSE!

SHE WON'T
BOTHER ME
AGAIN!
WONDER HOW MANY
MORE KEYS WAYNE
GAVE OUT?





THE ANSWER, HUGO...

...IS NONE!

HIS LADY HAD THE ONLY ONE!



DRIVER, TAKE ME...

...TAKE ME TO GRAYTOWERS CLINIC! THE ADDRESS IS...



DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL FIND HERE. MAYBE NOTHING!

BUT SOMEHOW--THAT WASN'T THE BRUCE I KNOW!

RING



YES--?

HI! I WAS HERE THE OTHER DAY, REMEMBER?--FOR BRUCE WAYNE?

MR. WAYNE IS NO LONGER UNDER OUR CARE...AND WE DO NOT DISCUSS OUR PATIENTS AFTER THEY LEAVE US!

NOW, LOOK--!



CONFIDENTIALITY IS OUR GREATEST ASSET, MISS. IF YOU WISH MORE INFORMATION, IT MUST COME FROM MR. WAYNE HIMSELF!

GOOD AFTERNOON!

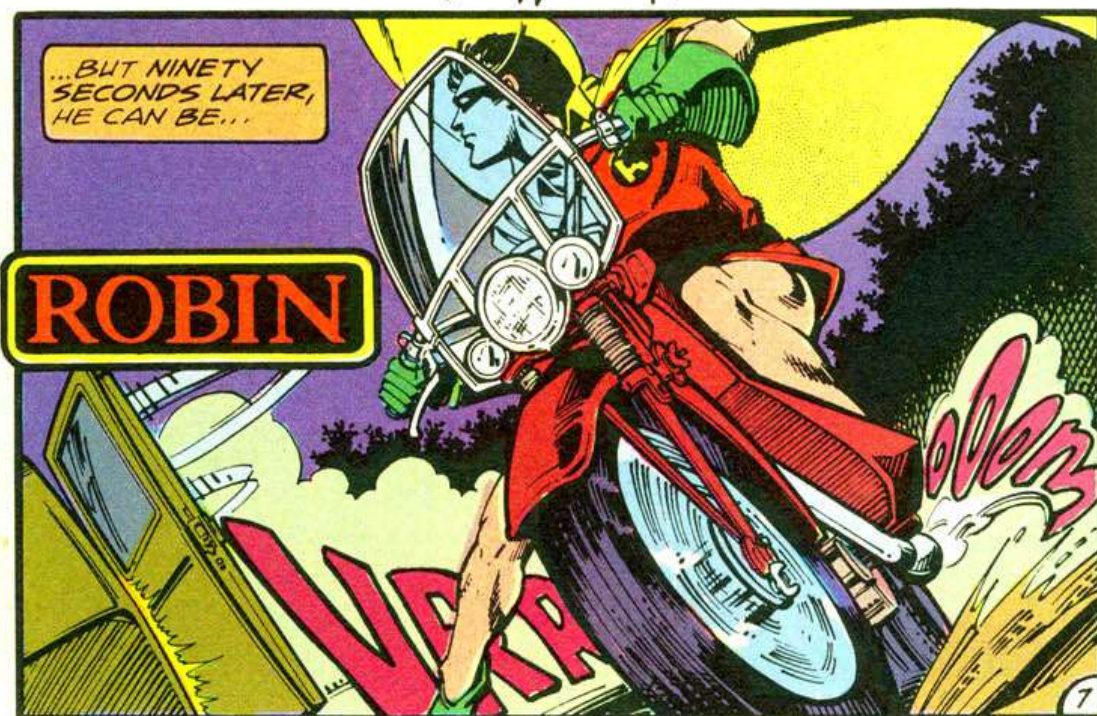


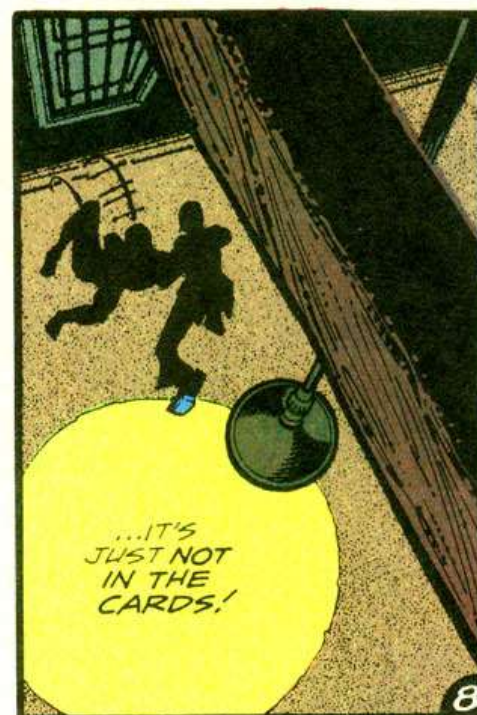
SHE SUSPECTS, DOCTOR!

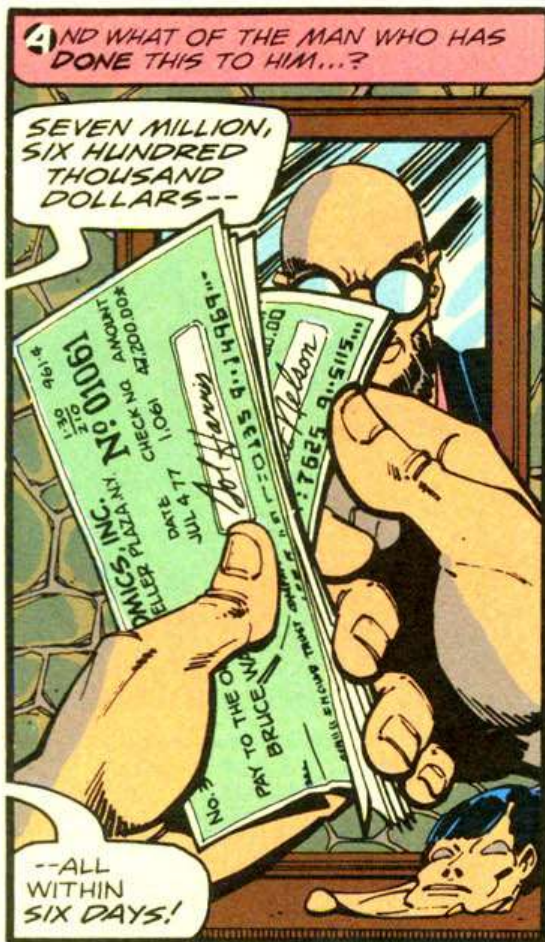
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL ACCELERATE THE NEXT PHASE OF MY SCHEME!

I MUST TAKE NO RISKS NOW!







AND WHAT OF THE MAN WHO HAS DONE THIS TO HIM...?

SEVEN MILLION, SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS--

--ALL WITHIN SIX DAYS!

THANK GOD WAYNE WASN'T A GARBAGE COLLECTOR!

BUT NO! THE BATMAN WAS ALTOGETHER AN EXCEPTIONAL MAN! HE RULED THE CITY BY DAY AS WELL AS BY NIGHT! IT COULD NOT BE OTHERWISE!

NO ONE ELSE COULD EVEN TOUCH THE HEM OF MY GARMENT! HE WAS...

...IRREPLACEABLE...!



HA! I COULD ALMOST SUCCEMB TO THAT WEAKNESS--BUT THAT WOULD BE SUICIDAL!

WHEN I AM FINISHED WITH HIM, THE BATMAN MUST DIE! TO ALLOW HIM TO LIVE WOULD BE TO INVITE CERTAIN DOOM!



I SHALL CONTINUE AS PLANNED!

YOU TWO! COME WITH ME!

AS IF SWITCHES HAD BEEN THROWN, THE MONSTERS LURCH FORWARD TO OBEY!



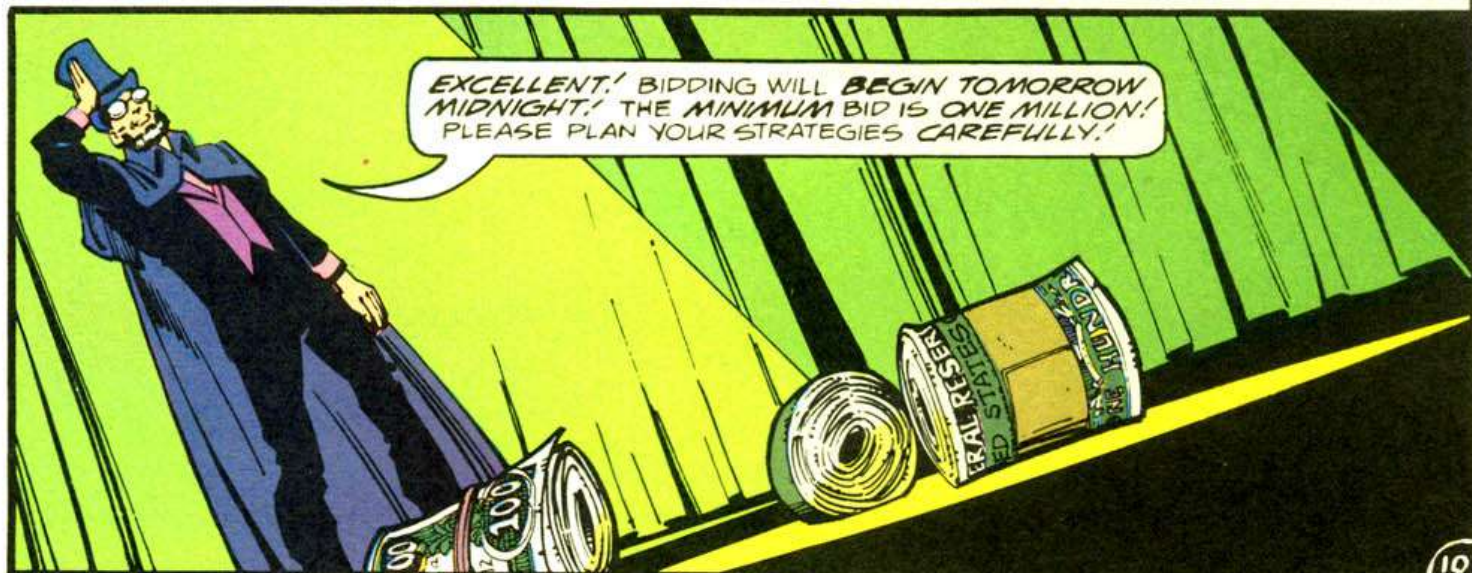
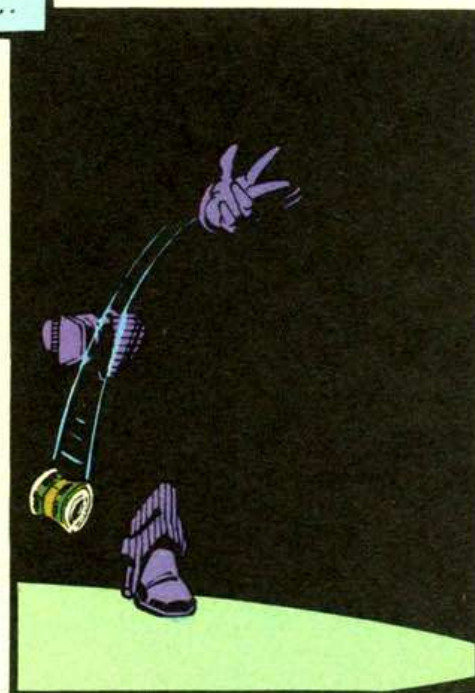
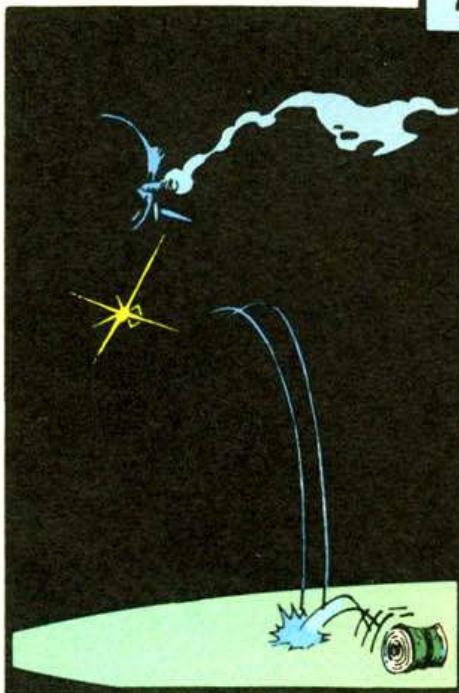
WAITING CAR SPEEDS THEM THROUGH THE CITY'S POST-THEATER CROWDS TO A PLACE WHERE THE LIGHTS DON'T FOLLOW!

HERE, WATCHED ONLY BY THE MOON'S BLANK WHITE EYE, THEY ENTER AN ABANDONED THEATER!

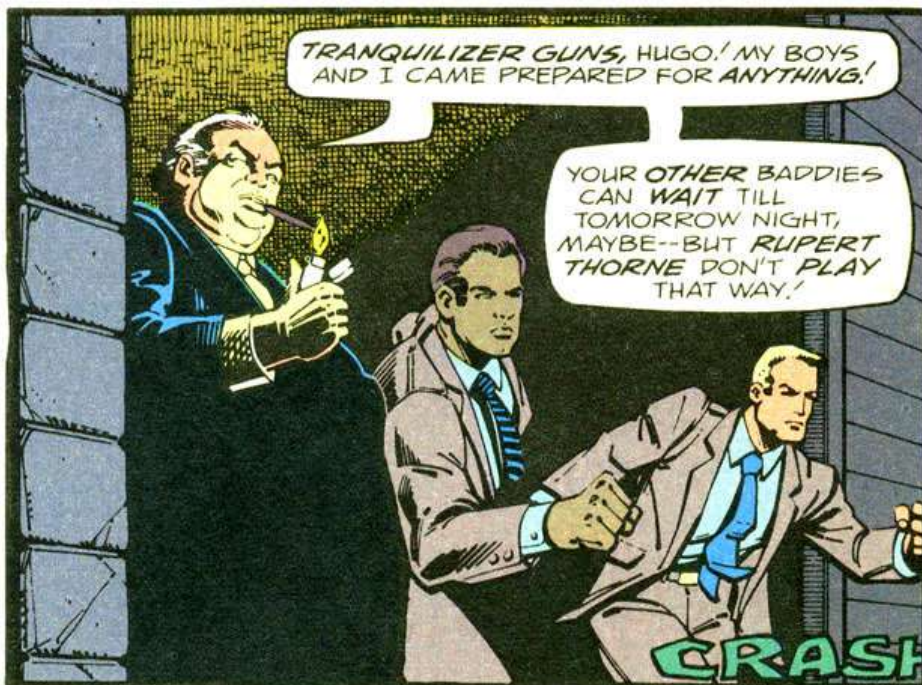
AT FIRST, NOTHING HAPPENS! THE DARKNESS SWALLOWS THEM GREEDILY, AND NO FURTHER SOUND CAN BE HEARD!



AND FROM THE SILENT SHADOWS...







TRANQUILIZER GUNS, HUGO! MY BOYS AND I CAME PREPARED FOR ANYTHING!

YOUR OTHER BADDIES CAN WAIT TILL TOMORROW NIGHT, MAYBE--BUT RUPERT THORNE DON'T PLAY THAT WAY!

CRASH



HOLD HIM!

HE'S GOT HIDDEN WEAPONS!



TOUGH LITTLE MONKEY, AREN'T YA? WE'LL SEE JUST HOW TOUGH YOU ARE, HUGO!

WE'LL SEE HOW LONG IT TAKES YOU TO TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!

AND EVEN AS FATE TURNS AGAINST HUGO STRANGE ON ONE FRONT--



HSST! ALFRED!

UM!
UH--
WHAT?



MASTER ROBIN!

THE GIRL WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS PLACE, HUH? I'VE BEEN PROWLING SO LONG, I WAS ABOUT TO GIVE UP!

HOW ARE YOU DOING? HOW'S BRUCE?



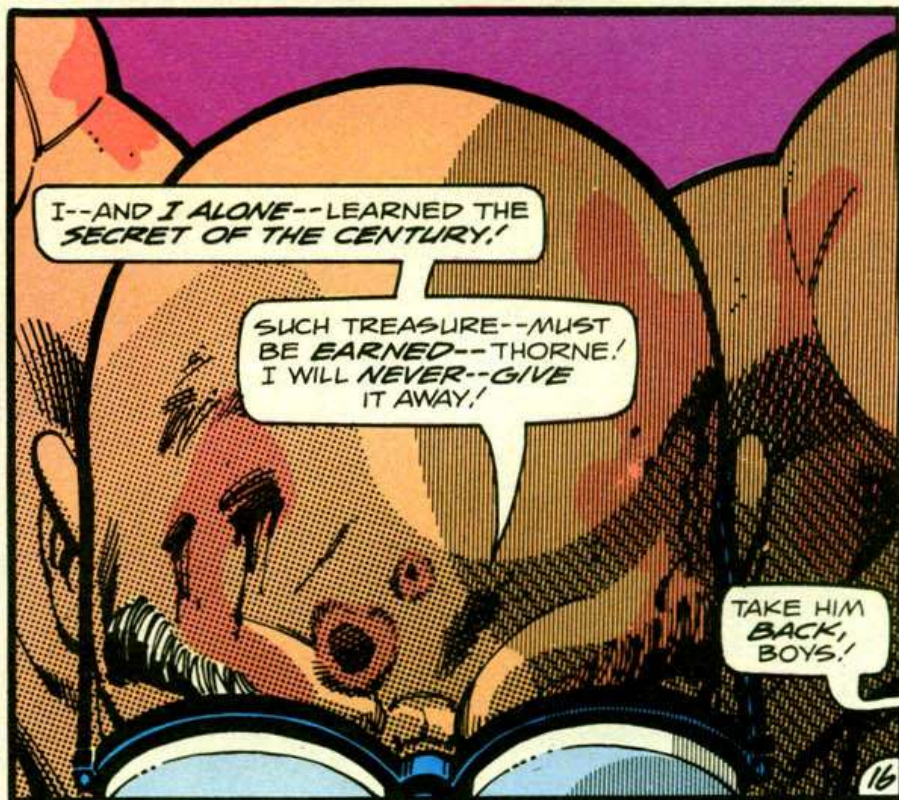
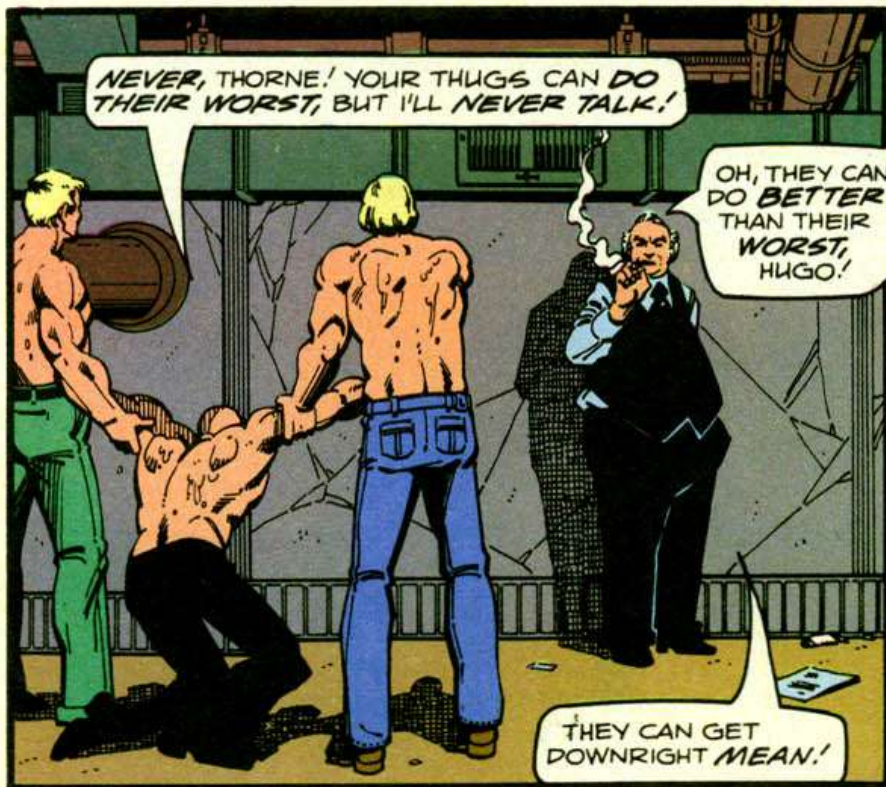
THEY'VE KEPT HIM DRUGGED FOR A WEEK, BUT I'VE LOOKED AFTER HIM!

GOOD! JUST HANG TIGHT!











NEXT
THE REAL BATMAN RETURNS!
AND SO DOES--
THE PENGUIN!
(YOU DID SPOT HIM ON PAGE 10, PANEL 5-- DIDN'T YOU?)

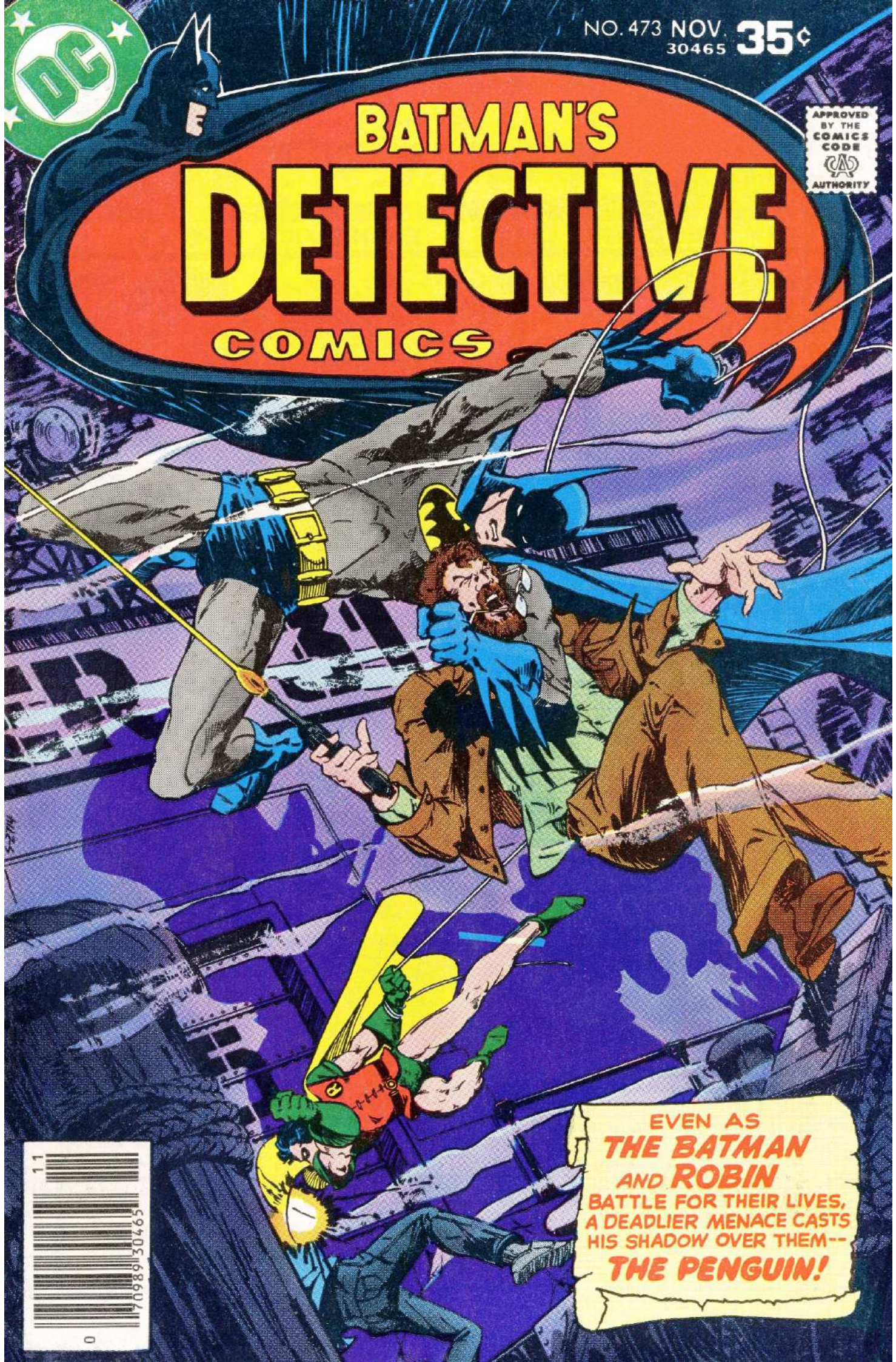
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS



EVEN AS
THE BATMAN
AND **ROBIN**
BATTLE FOR THEIR LIVES,
A DEADLIER MENACE CASTS
HIS SHADOW OVER THEM--
THE PENGUIN!



AN ALMOST LEGENDARY FIGURE, THE COWLED SHADOW OF THE BATMAN PROWLs THROUGH THE NIGHT, PREYING UPON THE CRIMINAL PARASITE LIKE THE WINGED CREATURE WHOSE NAME HE HAS ADOPTED!

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

SO MUCH FOR
PROF. STRANGE!

YEAH! FUNNY
HOW HE WOULDN'T
GIVE UP THE
BATMAN'S SECRET
I.D.!

GUESS HE WAS
ONE OF THOSE
TURKEYS WHO'S
SCARED OF BATS!
I DON'T UNDER-
STAND GUYS
LIKE THAT!

TURKEYS? NO, NO TURKEYS
IN THIS ISSUE--BUT THERE'S
ANOTHER SORT OF JAILBIRD
WAITING IN THE WINGS. IN
FACT, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE
JUST DEALING WITH THUGS SO
FAR, WE'VE NAMED OUR TALE--

"THE MALAY PENGUIN!"

STEVE ENGLEHART * STORY

MARSHALL ROGERS * ART & COLORS

TERRY AUSTIN * EMBELLISHER

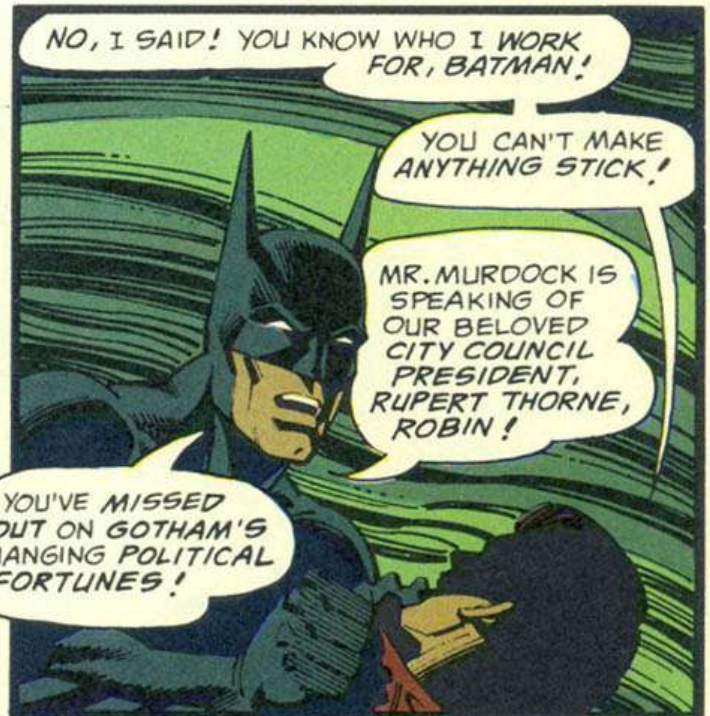
M. SNAPINN * LETTERER

JULIUS SCHWARTZ * EDITOR





I COULDN'T HEAR YOU BEFORE IN THE FOG, SO YOU'RE GOING TO REPEAT IT FOR ME NOW!



NO, I SAID! YOU KNOW WHO I WORK FOR, BATMAN!

YOU CAN'T MAKE ANYTHING STICK!

MR. MURDOCK IS SPEAKING OF OUR BELOVED CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, RUPERT THORNE, ROBIN!

YOU'VE MISSED OUT ON GOTHAM'S CHANGING POLITICAL FORTUNES!



BUT I'VE READ THE PAPERS--BETWEEN THE LINES! DOES THORNE REALLY CONTROL THE POLICE?

NO--NOT WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON IN CHARGE! HE CONTROLS THE COURTS!

AND THE POLICE IN MATTERS OF CITY POLICY--

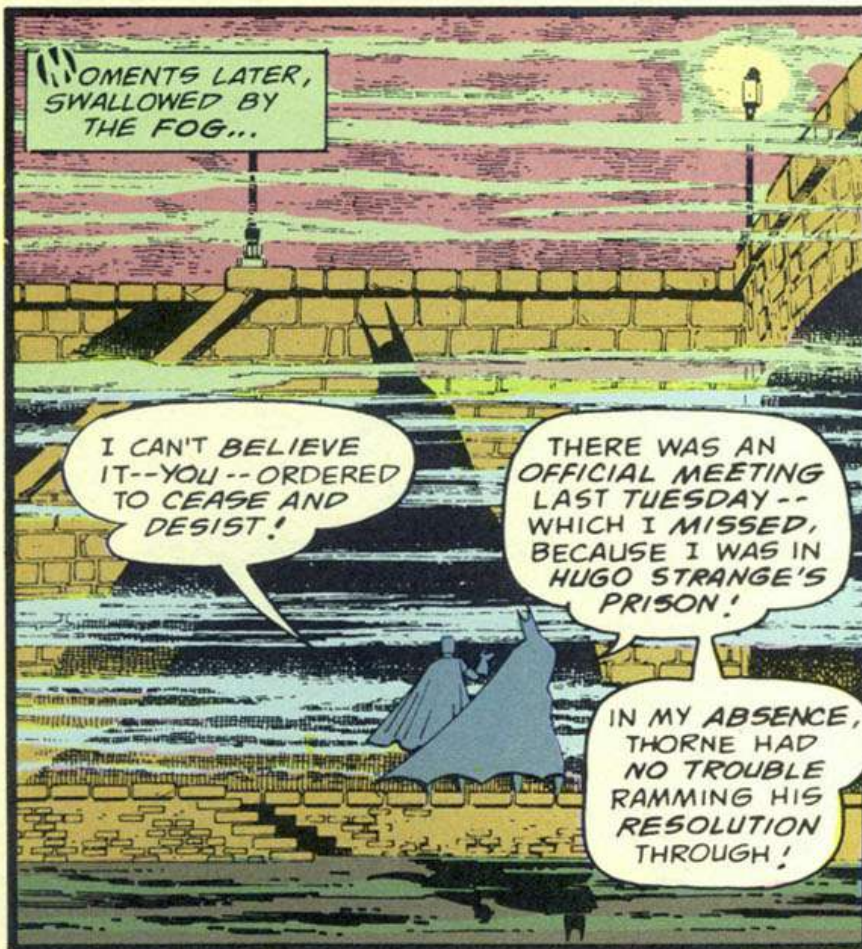


EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
--LIKE WHETHER THE BATMAN'S STILL WELCOME IN GOTHAM CITY!

HERE COME THE POLICE--AND I'M READY TO MEET THEM WITH OPEN ARMS! HOW ABOUT YOU, BATMAN?



EEEEEE
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



MOMENTS LATER,
SWALLOWED BY
THE FOG...

I CAN'T BELIEVE
IT--YOU--ORDERED
TO CEASE AND
DESIST!

THERE WAS AN
OFFICIAL MEETING
LAST TUESDAY--
WHICH I MISSED,
BECAUSE I WAS IN
HUGO STRANGE'S
PRISON!

IN MY ABSENCE,
THORNE HAD
NO TROUBLE
RAMMING HIS
RESOLUTION
THROUGH!



WELL, YOU'VE BEEN
AN OUTLAW BEFORE--
AND SO HAVE I!

YEAH--I ONLY
CAME FOR A
VISIT, BUT YOU
COULDN'T BLOW
ME OUT OF
HERE NOW WITH
DYNAMITE!

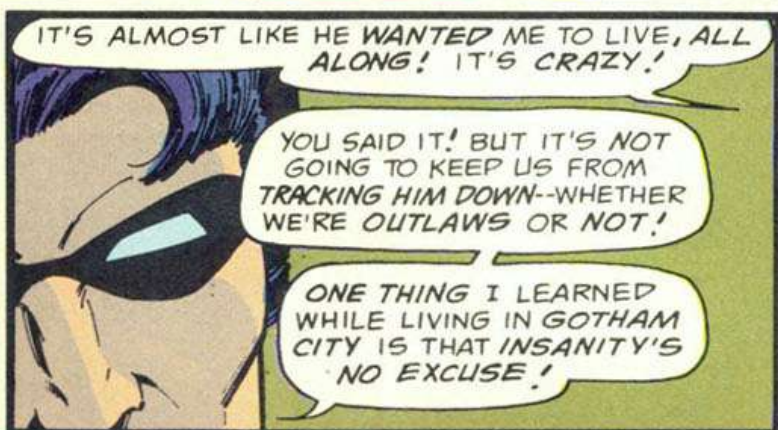
I THOUGHT
YOU'D FEEL
LIKE THAT!

HECK YES! AND
SPEAKING OF
FEELING--



--HOW'RE YOU FEELING? IT'S BEEN
LESS THAN 24 HOURS SINCE YOU GOT
OUT OF HUGO'S CELL!

ODDLY ENOUGH,
I FEEL GOOD!
APPARENTLY,
STRANGE'S
INJECTIONS NOT
ONLY KEPT ME
UNCONSCIOUS, BUT
HELPED MY BURNS
HEAL, TOO!



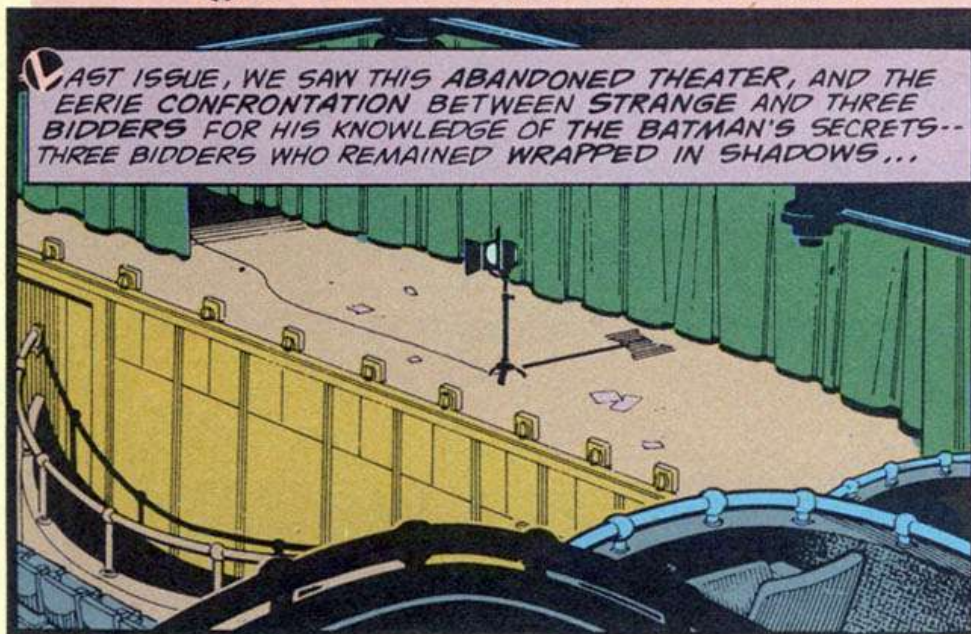
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE WANTED ME TO LIVE, ALL
ALONG! IT'S CRAZY!

YOU SAID IT! BUT IT'S NOT
GOING TO KEEP US FROM
TRACKING HIM DOWN--WHETHER
WE'RE OUTLAWS OR NOT!

ONE THING I LEARNED
WHILE LIVING IN GOTHAM
CITY IS THAT INSANITY'S
NO EXCUSE!

HOWEVER, LAST ISSUE, WE SAW BOSS THORNE MURDER HUGO STRANGE IN HIS PERSONAL CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY THE BATMAN-- A FACT THE DYNAMIC DUO HAS YET TO DISCOVER! AND NOW HUGO STRANGE LIES ON THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER!

THAT'S NOT THE ONLY SECRET WE KNOW, EITHER...



LAST ISSUE, WE SAW THIS ABANDONED THEATER, AND THE EERIE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN STRANGE AND THREE BIDDERS FOR HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE BATMAN'S SECRETS-- THREE BIDDERS WHO REMAINED WRAPPED IN SHADOWS...



WSSST! LISTEN!

EGAD! THAT
STRANGE
FELLOW HAS
STOOD ME UP!

NO ONE
DOES THAT--



--TO THE PENGUIN!



THE AUCTION WAS TO BE TONIGHT-- BUT I AM ALONE! NOT EVEN MY COMPETITORS HAVE APPEARED!

IS THIS A GAME? AND IF SO-- WHAT ARE THE RULES?



WELL, I HAVE LITTLE TIME TO DEVOTE TO THE MATTER NOW, WITH MY PRIMARY PLANS PROCEEDING APACE!

LEARNING THE BATMAN'S SECRET WOULD HAVE BEEN GLORIOUS, BUT IT SEEMS NOT TO BE!

IF ONLY I KNEW WHO MY RIVALS WERE--!



HA HA HA HA HA HA

IT RAINS DOWN LIKE ICE CUBES, THAT LAUGH--

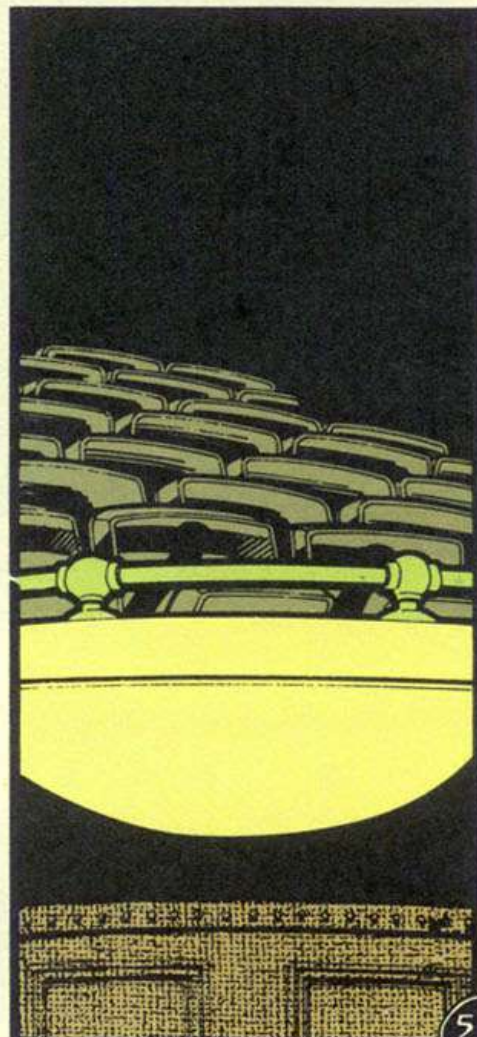
--THE MAD LAUGH OF--

THE JOKER!



SHOW YOURSELF--

--YOU GRINNING GARGOYLE!





THE PENGUIN
FEARS NO SANE
MAN-- BUT THE
JOKER IS HARDLY
THAT!

IT'S HIGH TIME I
TOOK MY LEAVE!

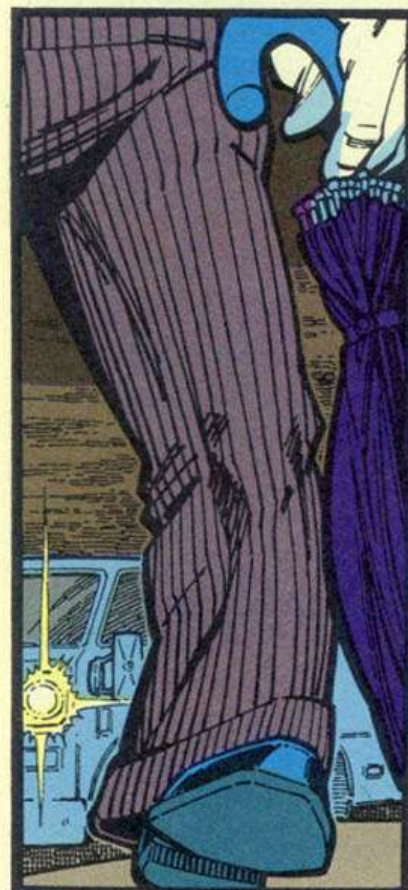


AT LEAST, I KNOW HE
DIDN'T DIVERT STRANGE!
HE WOULDN'T RETURN
HERE IF HE HAD!

WE HAVE NO NEED
TO CROSS SWORDS--

--AND THAT SUITS
ME PERFECTLY!

SHAKE A LEG, BOYS!
WE HAVE PLACES TO
GO!



THUMP



AND, IN THE
REED
GALLERIES...



HOW COULD
YOU DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS,
REED?



MY DEAR BATMAN!
WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?

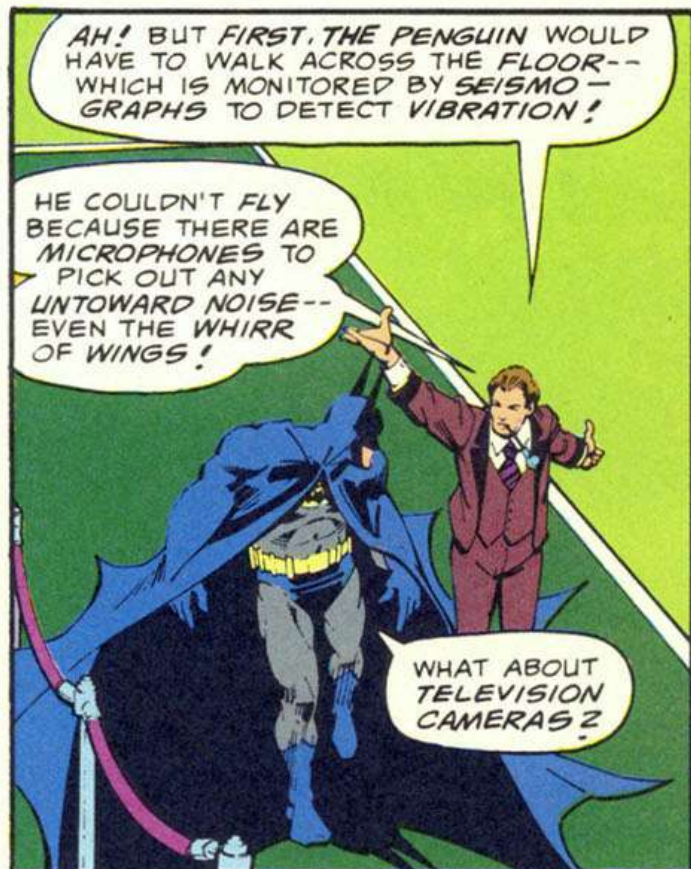


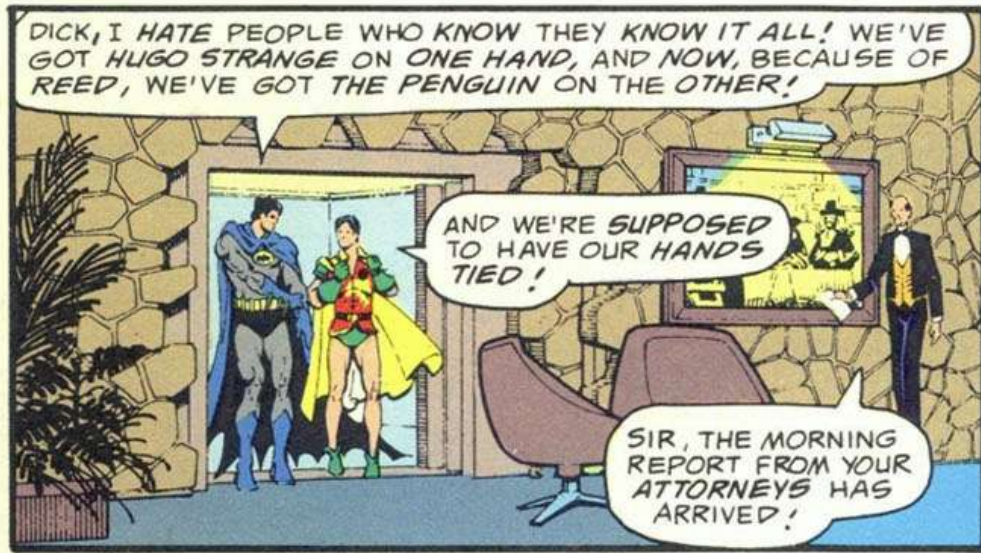
THIS JEWELLED BIRD YOUR GALLERY'S PUTTING ON
DISPLAY-- THAT'S WHAT! DON'T YOU KNOW THE REAL
PENGUIN BROKE JAIL THREE WEEKS AGO? *

AM I TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORLD
OF ART IS TO BE RULED BY THAT ODD
LITTLE MAN WITH THE PECULIAR
ROLLING GAIT?

THE REED GALLERIES IS
AN EXHIBITION HALL! WE
EXHIBIT THINGS! THERE IS
NOTHING MORE TO SAY!

* AFTER HIS CAPTURE IN BATMAN #288! -- JULIE







GOTHAM GENERAL--?

YES, SILVER'S IN HERE! * THEY'VE STARTED TO ALLOW HER VISITORS!

GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL



* SILVER ST. CLOUD, BRUCE'S CURRENT FLAME, WAS ALSO CAPTURED BY HUGO STRANGE LAST TIME! -- JULIE



HELLO, SILVER--

HI, BRUCE! WOW! YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD!

THEY'VE KEPT ME HERE FOR TWO DAYS SO FAR-- AFRAID I GOT SOME OF THAT MONSTER SERUM ALL THOSE OTHER POOR PEOPLE GOT! I THOUGHT YOU'D BE IN BED, TOO!



NO SUCH LUCK!

I'M A WORKING MAN!



HI! YOU MUST BE BRUCE'S WARD, DICK!

UM...YEAH! I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR BRUSHING YOU OFF THE OTHER NIGHT--!*

NEVER MIND!

I SUPPOSE I DID SOUND PRETTY LOONY!

* DICK ONLY PRETENDED TO DO THAT LAST ISSUE, SO HE COULD CHANGE TO ROBIN! --JULIE

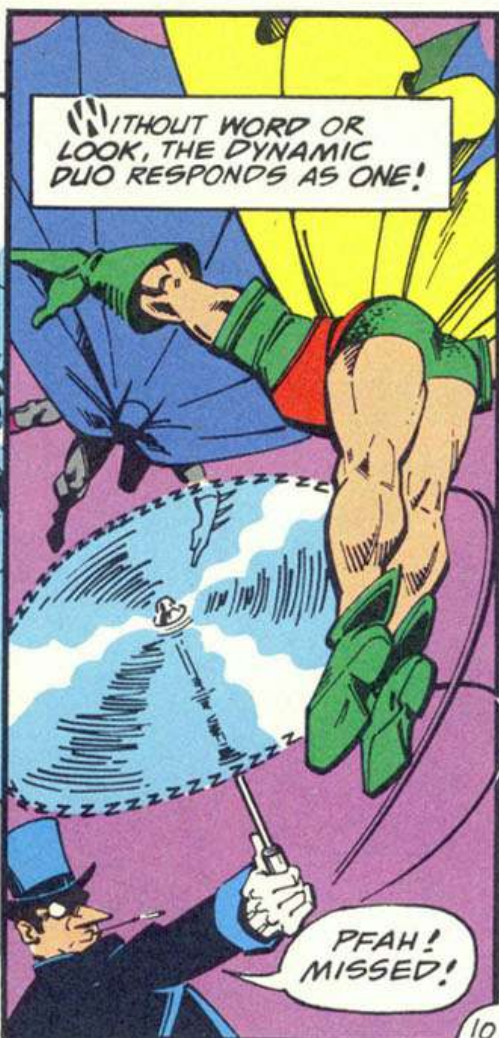
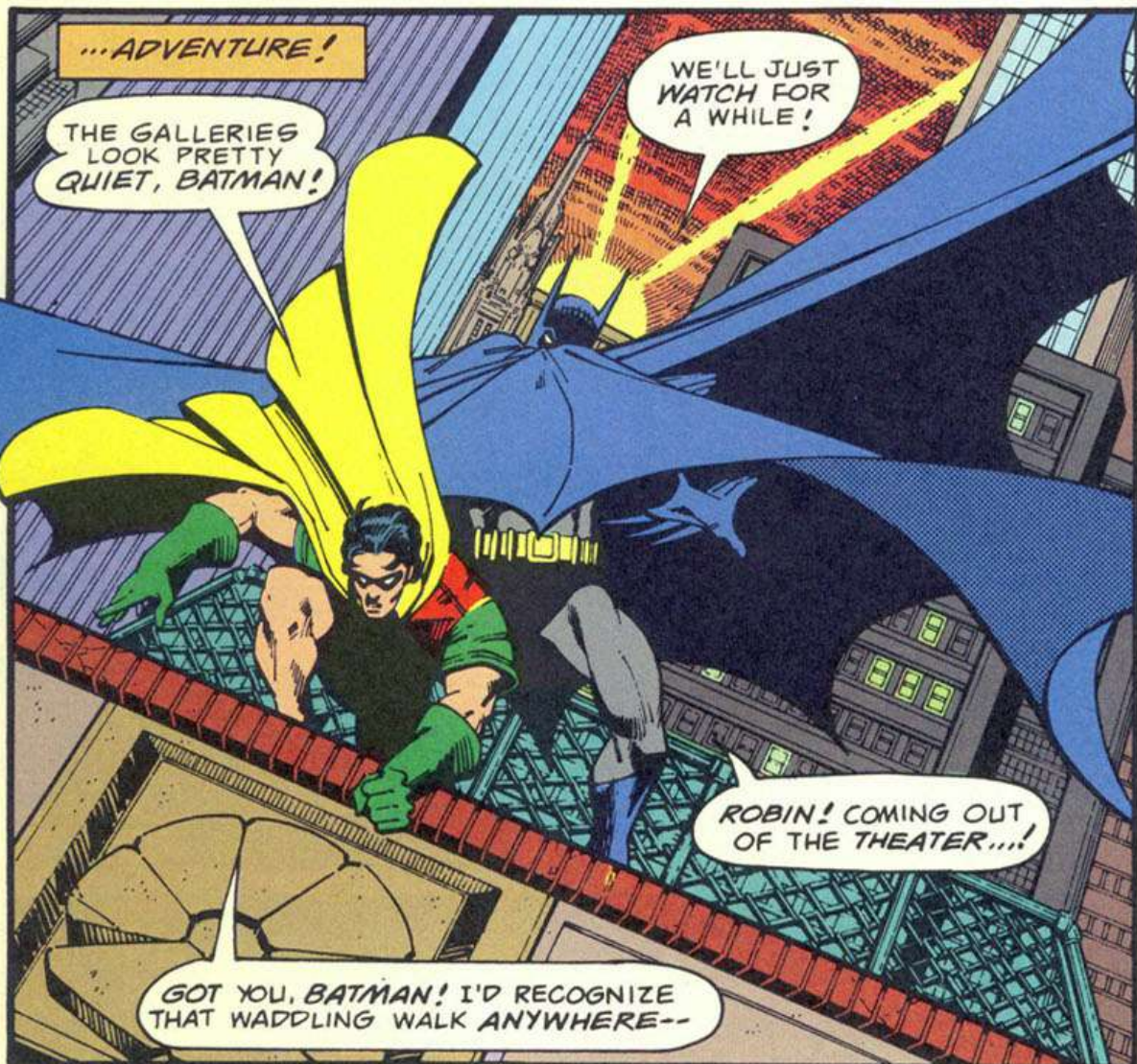


BUT YOU WERE RIGHT, SILVER! YOU SAVED MY LIFE, AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!

I THINK THAT'S MY EXIT CUE! I'LL BE WAITING OUTSIDE!



OOO-WHEE!





-- BUT I DIDN'T!



THEN PERMIT ME TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT YOU HAVE MISSED, ROBIN! THE SPEED-CONTROL ON MY BLADES!

I HAVE BUT TO USE IT...

...TO LOSE YOUR ANNOYING ATTENTIONS!

PERHAPS NOT, PENGUIN!



SORRY, BATMAN! THIS BIRD HAS FLOWN!

BUT UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, REMEMBER--

--NEVER PITCH ROLLS AT A BANK!



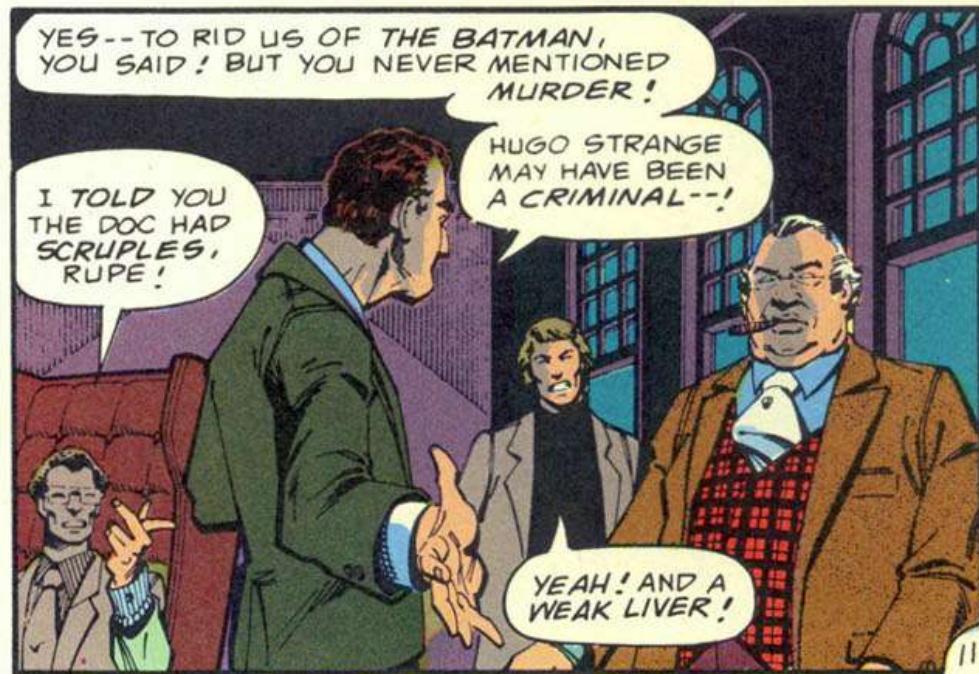
HUH?!

NOW, LET US TURN FOR A MOMENT TO MATTERS AT THE FAMED TOBACCONISTS' CLUB... MATTERS WHICH WILL ALSO AFFECT THIS SAGA MOST PROFOUNDLY...



NO! I NEVER AGREED TO MURDER!

YOU AGREED TO MY PLAN, DR. BELL!

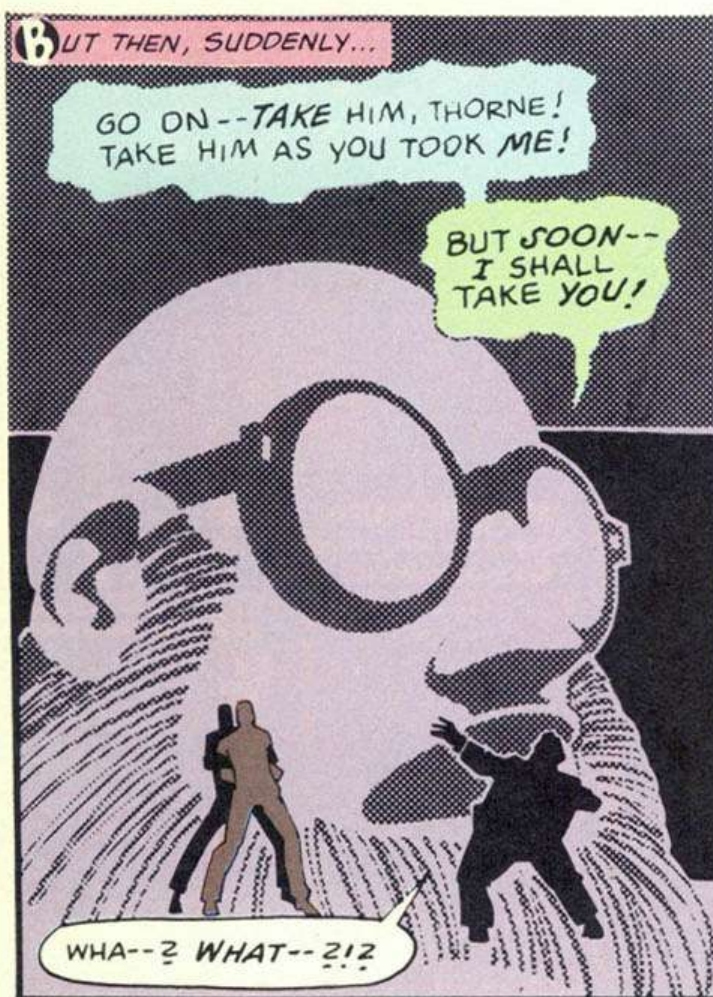


YES-- TO RID US OF THE BATMAN, YOU SAID! BUT YOU NEVER MENTIONED MURDER!

I TOLD YOU THE DOC HAD SCRUPLES, RUPE!

HUGO STRANGE MAY HAVE BEEN A CRIMINAL--!

YEAH! AND A WEAK LIVER!



MEANWHILE, BACK
AT THE BATMAN--

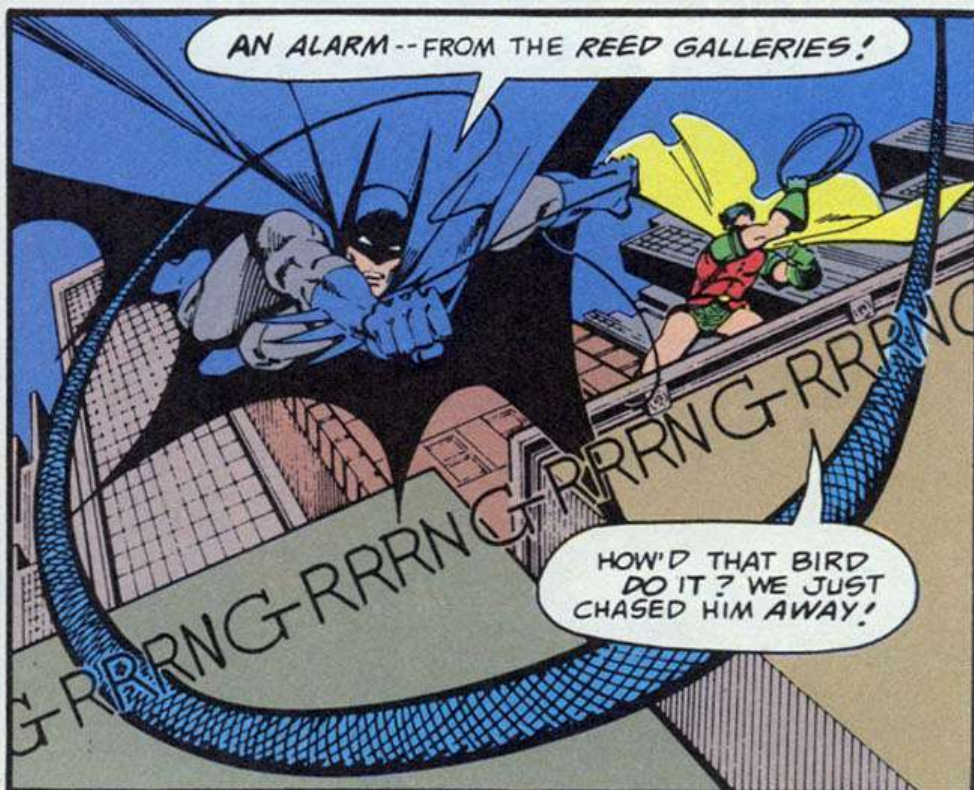
A BATTLE OF WITS--

--FOUGHT WITH
UMBRELLAS, BIRDS,
AND WORDS! IT'S
ALWAYS THE SAME--
AND ALWAYS
DIFFERENT!

"NEVER
PITCH
ROLLS
AT A
BANK!"



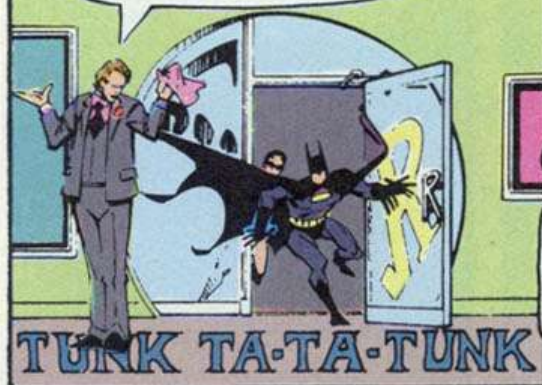
AN ALARM--FROM THE REED GALLERIES!



HOW'D THAT BIRD
DO IT? WE JUST
CHASED HIM AWAY!

HOWEVER, WHEN BATMAN AND
ROBIN BURST INTO THE HALL...

WELL, I ADMIRE YOUR
PROMPTNESS, GENTLEMEN--
BUT YOU'VE ANSWERED A
FALSE ALARM!



YOU HEAR THAT?



THE THEATER
NEXT DOOR IS
REHEARSING A
NEW MUSICAL--

--WITH A HERD OF
ELEPHANTS, IT SOUNDS
LIKE! THE VIBRATION AND
SOUND SET OFF THE
SEISMOGRAPHS AND
THE MICROPHONES!

I THINK I'LL SUE!

HOW ARE WE GOING TO
KEEP OUR TRAPS SET
IF--

WHY,
THEY'RE
GONE!



ONLY NEXT DOOR, MR. REED...

LET'S SEE THESE
"ELEPHANTS"--

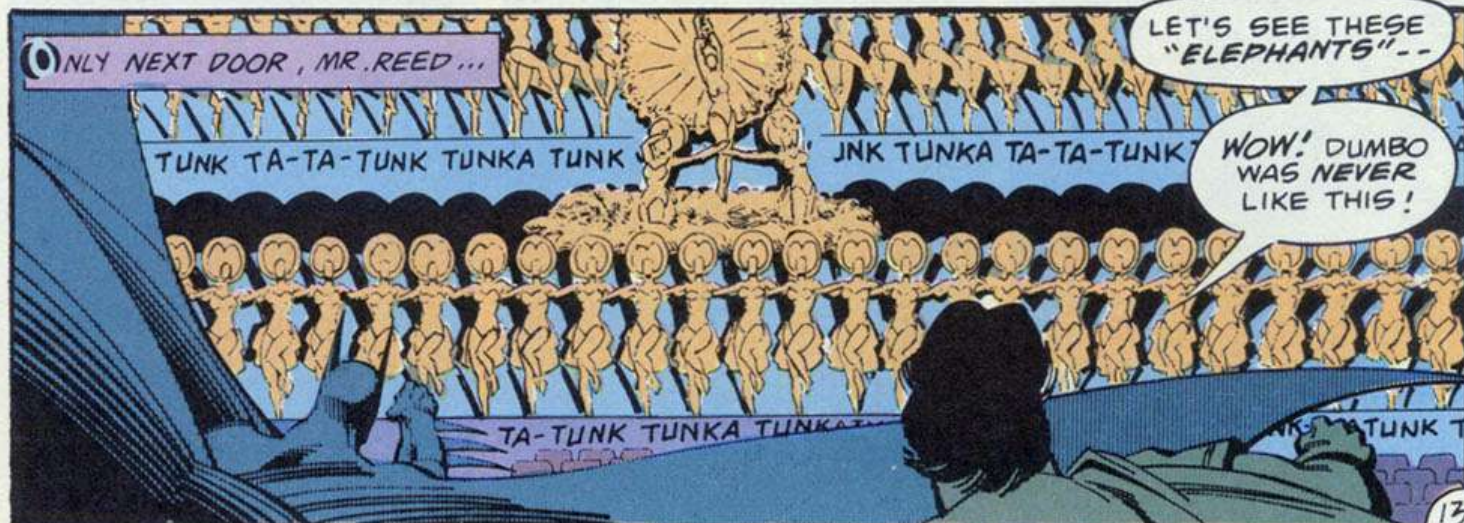
TUNK TA-TA-TUNK TUNKA TUNK

JNK TUNKA TA-TA-TUNK

WOW! DUMBO
WAS NEVER
LIKE THIS!

TA-TUNK TUNKA TUNKA

JNK TUNKA



TAKE FIVE, GIRLS! LOOK WHO'S COME TO VISIT US!

BATMAN AND ROBIN! I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CARE TO ENDORSE OUR LITTLE EXTRAVAGANZA?

THORNE'S CAMPAIGN DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE HAD MUCH EFFECT ON THE PEOPLE, AT LEAST!

I HAVE ONLY ONE QUESTION, SIR: WHO'S BACKING THE SHOW?

FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK, BATMAN--

--BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW!

WE GET OUR MONEY THROUGH THE FIRST GOTHAM BANK!

I FIGURE HE'S ONE OF THOSE PUBLICITY-SHY BILLIONAIRES--

--YOU KNOW--

--A REAL MYSTERY MAN!

THANKS VERY MUCH! YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP!

I HAVE--?

THINK YOU'VE GOT THE ANSWER, FRIENDS? THEN PLAY ALONG WITH US A FEW MOMENTS LONGER, AS WE SHIFT TO THE FOLLOWING EVENING...

...ATOP WAYNE FOUNDATION--

"NEVER PITCH ROLLS AT A BANK"?

GOOD LUCK IN PARIS, BROOME!

GOOD LUCK ON THE PLANE, YOU MEAN, MR. WAYNE! MOST ALL OF THE AMERICAN EXCHANGE MEMBERS WILL BE FLYING OVER WITH ME, AND I'LL BE NEGOTIATING ALL THE WAY!

YOU CAN HANDLE THEM, BROOME, I'M SURE!

SO LONG!

WHAT IN THE WORLD--?

GEESE--FLYING IN THE FORM OF THE PENGUIN'S PROFILE!

THEY'RE DROPPING SOMETHING-- ALL ACROSS THE CITY!



LOOK OUT!

LEAFLETS!

CLANG
CLATTER



--ATTACHED TO
SOMETHING!



GOLD COINS! DOUBLE
EAGLES--\$20 GOLD
PIECES! THE GOVERN-
MENT HASN'T MINTED
THESE SINCE THE '30'S!

THE PENGUIN SURE
WANTED THIS AIR-
DROP NOTICED!



OF COURSE-- SINCE
THESE NOTES ARE
ALL IDENTICAL
LETTERS TO THE
BATMAN!

BATMAN,
WE NEED STALL NO LONGER!
TIME IS ON THE WING!
TONIGHT I SHALL LIFT THE
SILVER BIRD-- AND YOU WILL
TAKE A DIVE!
DISRESPECTFULLY,
YOURS,
The Penguin



THEN WE'VE GOT HIM!
IT ALL FITS!

HE BACKS THE MUSICAL, TO
MESS UP THE GALLERIES'
ALARMS SO THAT HE CAN
MAKE A RAID IN THE
CONFUSION!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT
"PITCH ROLLS" BUSINESS
MEANS, BUT THE MONEY
COMES THROUGH A "BANK,"
AND THE DANCERS-- THE
"CHICKS"--ARE FEATHERED
LIKE BIRDS!



JUST LIKE YOU ALWAYS
SAID, THE PENGUIN'S
WEAK SPOT IS HIS VANITY!
HE THINKS HE CAN PLAY
WITH US-- BUT WE'VE
OUTSMARTED HIM!

RIGHT--?



WRONG!





NEXT:
"DEADSHOT RICOCHET"



NO. 474 DEC.
30465

35¢



BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS



ROGERS
& AUSTIN



DEADSHOT'S REVENGE

AN ALMOST LEGENDARY FIGURE, THE COWLED SHADOW OF THE BATMAN PROWLs THROUGH THE NIGHT, PREYING UPON THE CRIMINAL PARASITE LIKE THE WINGED CREATURE WHOSE NAME HE HAS ADOPTED!

NOW, ACCOMPANIED BY THE EQUALLY LEGENDARY LAUGH OF ROBIN, THE TEEN WONDER, HE STALKS THE MAMMOTH SHADOWS OF HIS HIDDEN BATCAVE, DRINKING IN ITS ECHOES!

SO THE PENGUIN GOES DOWN AGAIN, EH?*

HE WAS SO MAD, HE WAS FIT TO BE TIED! OL' PUDGY THOUGHT HE'D REALLY PUT IT OVER ON US THIS TIME!

--AND-- WHAT CAN I SAY? HE HAD ME SUCKERED!

BUT YOU CAN'T BEAT THE BATMAN!

AT LEAST, ROBIN-- NOT SO FAR! BUT WAIT FOR --

*CARRYOVER FROM LAST STORY.-- JULIE

STEVE ENGLEHART * STORY

MARSHALL ROGERS * PENCIL-ART & COLORS

TERRY AUSTIN * INK-ART

BEN ODA * LETTERER

JULIUS SCHWARTZ * EDITOR

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

THE BATMAN

CREATED BY

BOB KANE

THE DEADSHOT RICOCHET



IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT LAUGHTER ECHOES IN THE BATCAVE-- NOT TRUE, BREATHLESS LAUGHTER, SHARED BY TWO OLD FRIENDS!



WHAT...?

NUTS! MY BELT-RADIO!

NOW WHAT--?



ROBIN--WONDER GIRL CALLING!

COME TO GABRIEL'S HORN AT ONCE!

THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETING SINCE THE TEEN TITANS STARTED!*

*AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT WILL BE REVEALED IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF TEEN TITANS, #53!-- Julie



WELL--HECK, DONNA, I'M TIED UP WITH BATMAN NOW--!

NONSENSE! IF THE TITANS NEED YOU, GO TO IT!



BUT--I SAID I'D STICK WITH YOU TILL WE TOOK CARE OF BOSS THORNE--!

AND I APPRECIATE IT! BUT I CAN HANDLE HIM ALONE IF I HAVE TO!



OKAY! I WONDER WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS ON THIS MEETING, THOUGH?

ON MY WAY, WG!



YOU'RE SEEING A LOT OF WONDER GIRL AND THE HARLEQUIN THESE DAYS, I HEAR!

LIKE YOU SAID, BRUCE--I LEARNED A LOT FROM YOU--



--ABOUT BOTH GUNMEN AND GIRLS!

YOU JUST LOOK AFTER SILVER ST. CLOUD, AND LEAVE THE HEAVY STUFF TO THE EXPERTS!

ALL RIGHT! THAT DOES IT!

OUT!

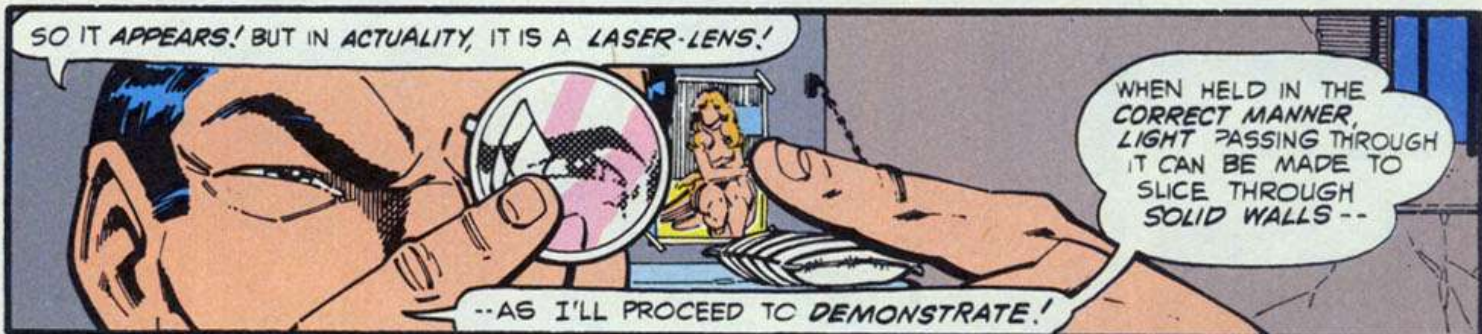


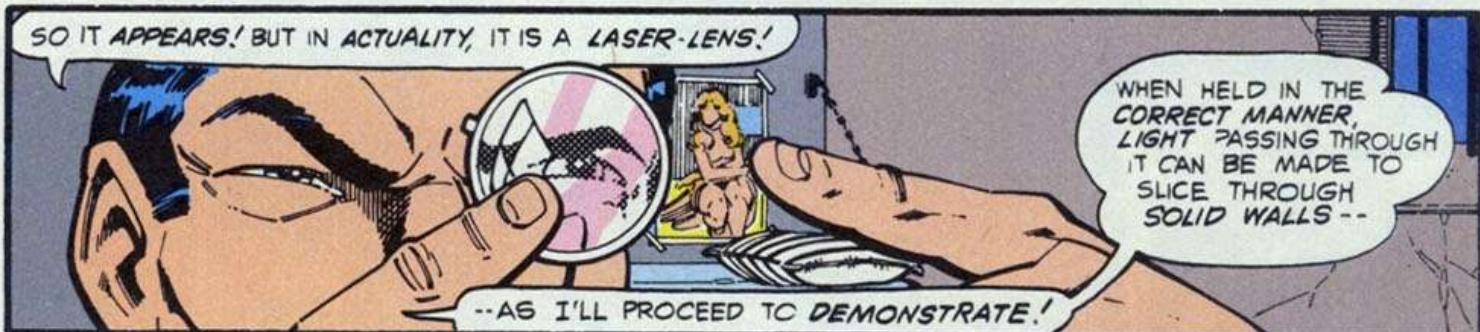
CATCH YA LATER, BRUCE!

GOOD LUCK, DICK-- AND THANKS!

IT WAS GOOD TO SEE YOU... PAL!









-- BUT NOW --

-- DEADSHOT IS FREE ONCE MORE!

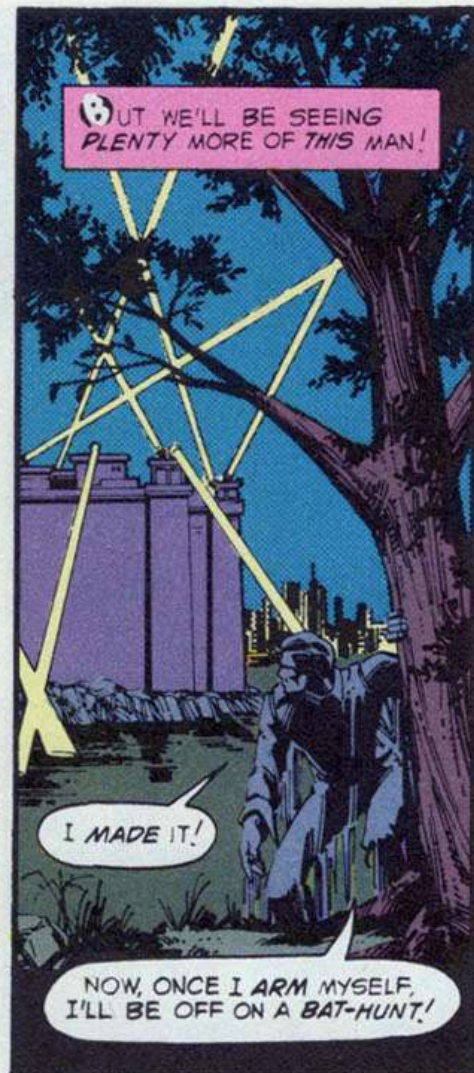
WHAT TH--!



WE WON'T BE SEEING THE PENGUIN AGAIN FOR A WHILE--

AWKK AWKK

-- AND IT'S PROBABLY JUST AS WELL!



BUT WE'LL BE SEEING PLENTY MORE OF THIS MAN!

I MADE IT!

NOW, ONCE I ARM MYSELF, I'LL BE OFF ON A BAT-HUNT!

MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, WHY DON'T WE SPY ON BOSS RUPERT THORNE--?

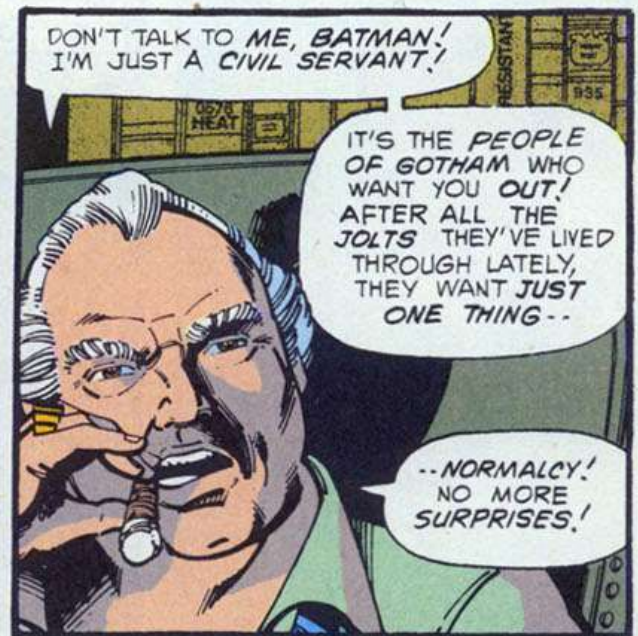


GOOD EVENING, THORNE!

GOOD--



--LORD!





YOU'D BETTER
BE READY FOR
ME, TOO, THORNE!

WHA-- HUGO
STRANGE--!



B-BUT YOU'RE--
DEAD--!

AT YOUR HANDS,
THORNE-- OR AT LEAST
BY YOUR ORDER--



NO!
I MEAN--
I DON'T BELIEVE
THIS! YOU AIN'T
NO SPOOK!

THERE AIN'T NO
SPOOKS! BATMAN'S
PULLING A CON-JOB!



THIS IS MY SECOND
WARNING, THORNE! *
YOUR MURDEROUS
LIFE HAS RUN
ITS COURSE!

WHEN YOU SEE
ME A THIRD
TIME, IT WILL
BE--

*THE FIRST ONE CAME LAST STORY!-- Julie



--THE
END!

THIS IS A
TRICK--!

IS
IT?



THIS HAS GOTTA
BE A TRICK!
IT'S--

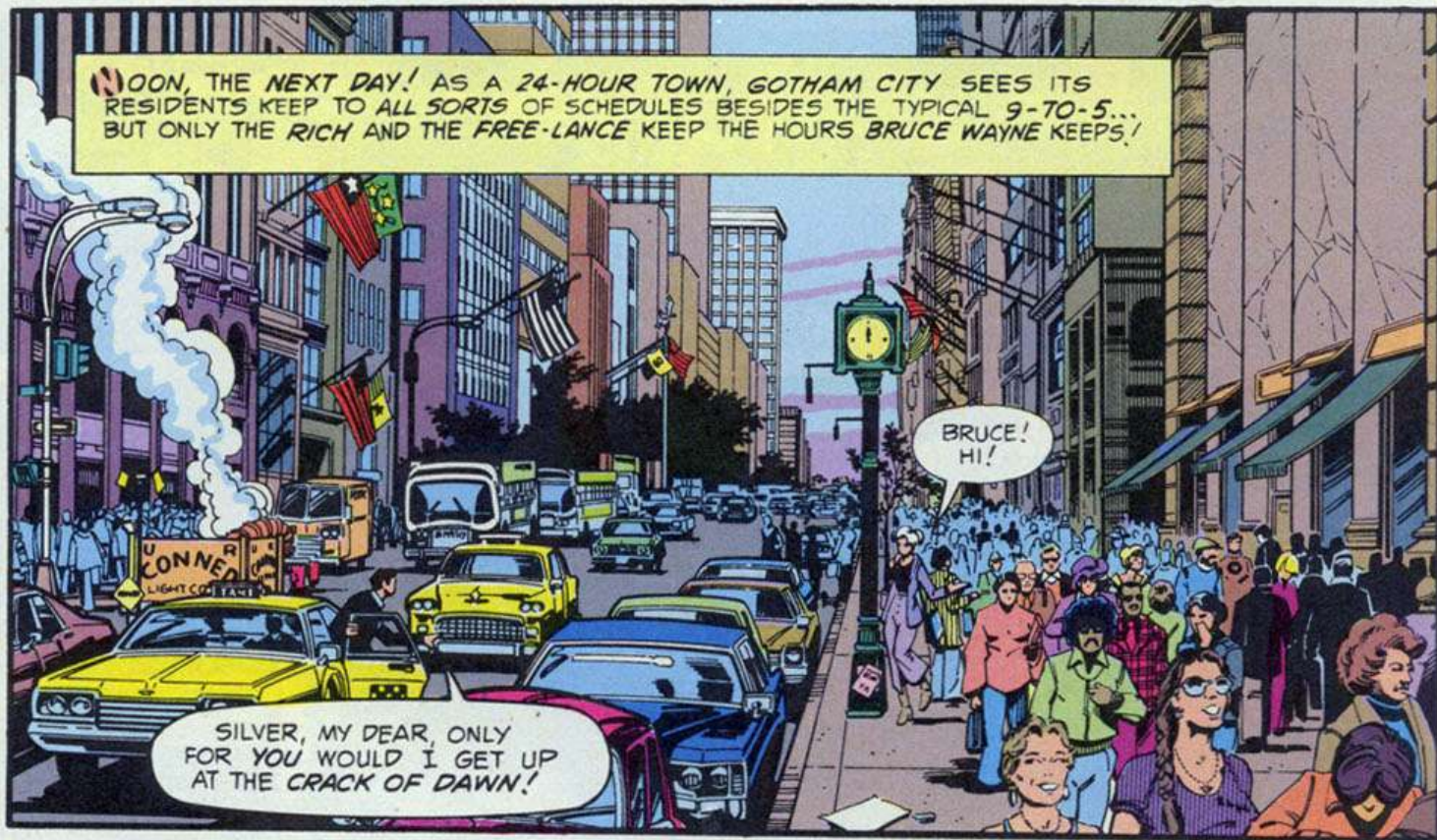
-- GOTTA--

-- GOTTA
BE--!



OH, GEEZ!

NOON, THE NEXT DAY! AS A 24-HOUR TOWN, GOTHAM CITY SEES ITS RESIDENTS KEEP TO ALL SORTS OF SCHEDULES BESIDES THE TYPICAL 9-TO-5... BUT ONLY THE RICH AND THE FREE-LANCE KEEP THE HOURS BRUCE WAYNE KEEPS!



SILVER, MY DEAR, ONLY FOR YOU WOULD I GET UP AT THE CRACK OF DAWN!

YOU KNOW, IF I THOUGHT YOU MEANT ALL THAT MALARKY YOU SPOUT--!

I INVITED YOU TO SEE MY WORK, BRUCE, BECAUSE I LIKE MY WORK! DOING SOMETHING WELL IS IMPORTANT TO ME!

TO ME, TOO, SILVER!

YOU'RE RIGHT! I TALK MALARKY-- BUT IT'S ALL IN FUN!

I DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH THE WAYNE FOUNDATION!

OHOO, I'M SORRY...!

A LOVER'S SPAT! OUR FIRST! THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS!

IT'S BEGINNING TO REALLY MATTER WHAT SHE THINKS OF ME!

AND YET--

--SHE DOESN'T REALLY KNOW ME-- NOT INSIDE! THERE'S A PART OF ME SHE CAN'T EVER KNOW!

ALWAYS, THE SAME PROBLEM-- EVER SINCE THE FIRST GIRL I LOVED, JULIE MADISON!*

THEY LOVE BRUCE WAYNE--

*BACK IN DETECTIVE #31! YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT BECAME OF HER IN WORLD'S FINEST #248! -- Julie

--BUT BRUCE WAYNE HAS BECOME A DAYTIME MASK FOR THE BATMAN!

THE PROBLEM IS-- WOULD I HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY?



SO, SHOW ME YOUR WORK, SWEETHEART!

I'VE NEVER BEEN QUITE CLEAR ON WHAT IT IS ANYWAY!

IN THAT CASE--



--STEP RIGHT THIS WAY!

MY LITTLE COMPANY AND I ARRANGE CONVENTIONS -- EVERYTHING FROM MENUS TO SECURITY TO THE LOOK OF THE EXHIBITION HALL!

IT'S QUITE A GROWTH INDUSTRY! EVERYBODY THROWS CONVENTIONS NOWADAYS!

THIS IS THE FIRST JOB THEY'VE DONE WITHOUT MY SUPERVISION, BUT MY CREW'S COME THROUGH WITH FLYING COLORS!

WE'RE OUT TO BE NUMBER ONE IN GOTHAM -- ALL OF US!

BRUCE!
BRUCE WAYNE!



COMMISSIONER GORDON!

I RUN INTO YOU IN THE DARNDEST PLACES, BRUCE!



CAN I HELP YOU, COMMISSIONER?
I'M IN CHARGE HERE --!

MY BOYS WILL BE FINISHED SOON, MA'AM! A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL HAS ESCAPED, AND HIS LAST-KNOWN HIDEOUT WAS ON THIS BLOCK, SO WE'RE CANVASSING THE AREA!

OH? WHO WAS IT, COMMISSIONER?



FELLOW NAME OF FLOYD LAWTON -- A.K.A. DEADSHOT!

TANGLED WITH THE BATMAN ONCE, AND LOST!* HE WAS PRETTY BITTER ABOUT IT, FROM ALL REPORTS!

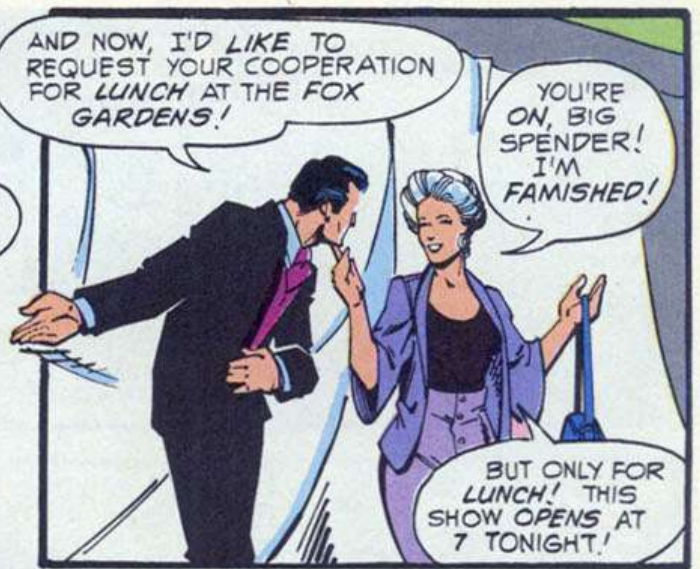
*IN BATMAN #59!
-- Julie



OH, YES... I REMEMBER HIM NOW!
WASN'T HE A MASTER MARKSMAN?

THAT'S HIM! MASQUERADED
AS A HERO-- WHILE
PLANNING TO MURDER
THE BATMAN!

WELL, I GUESS WE'RE FINISHED,
MA'AM! THANK YOU FOR YOUR
COOPERATION!



AND NOW, I'D LIKE TO
REQUEST YOUR COOPERATION
FOR LUNCH AT THE FOX
GARDENS!

YOU'RE
ON, BIG
SPENDER!
I'M
FAMISHED!

BUT ONLY FOR
LUNCH! THIS
SHOW OPENS AT
7 TONIGHT!

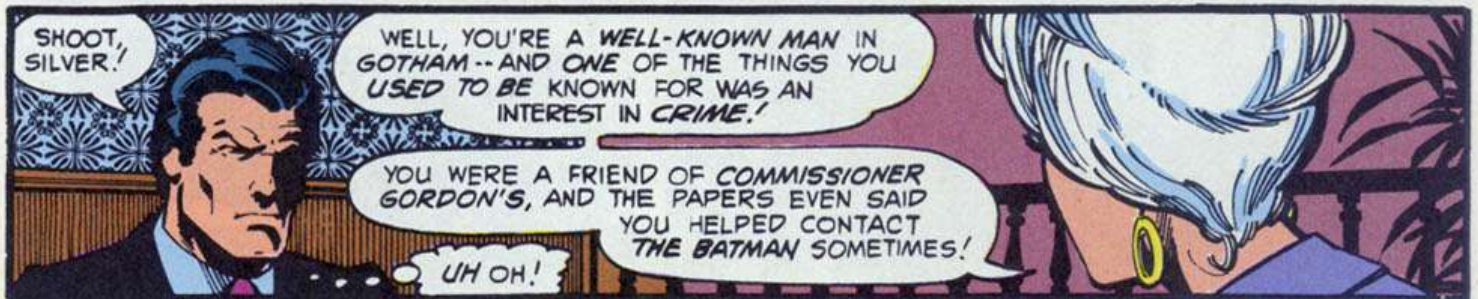
A THREE-BLOCK
WALK LATER...



--CHENIN BLANC
FOR THE LADY, AND
PERRIER FOR ME!

VERY GOOD,
MR. WAYNE!

BRUCE... CAN
I ASK YOU A
QUESTION?



SHOOT,
SILVER!

WELL, YOU'RE A WELL-KNOWN MAN IN
GOTHAM-- AND ONE OF THE THINGS YOU
USED TO BE KNOWN FOR WAS AN
INTEREST IN CRIME!

YOU WERE A FRIEND OF COMMISSIONER
GORDON'S, AND THE PAPERS EVEN SAID
YOU HELPED CONTACT
THE BATMAN SOMETIMES!

UH OH!



OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE STILL A FRIEND
OF THE COMMISSIONER'S-- BUT
WHAT ABOUT THE BATMAN?

YOU SEEM SO
BORED WITH CRIME,
AT LEAST SINCE I'VE
KNOWN YOU!

SHE'S WATCHING
ME SO INTENTLY!

THIS ISN'T JUST A CASUAL QUESTION!

DOES SHE
SUSPECT?

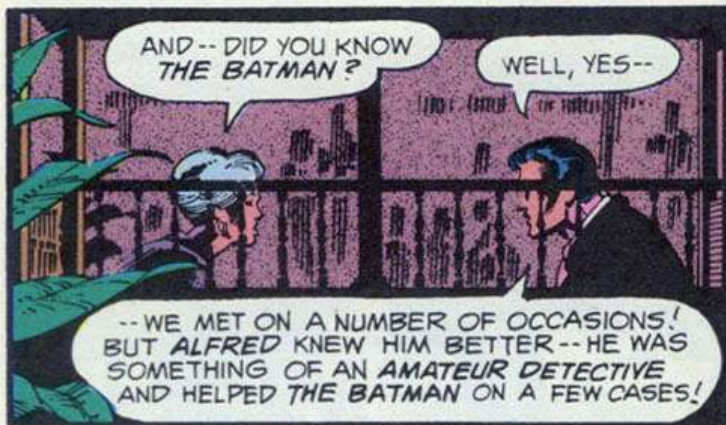


HE DARK KNIGHT MEASURES
HIS WORDS CAREFULLY...

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, SILVER--
AND HAD FEWER RESPONSIBILITIES TO
WAYNE ENTERPRISES AND THE
FOUNDATION--

--SURE, I
LIKED TO
FOLLOW THE
CRIME
REPORTS!

BUT THAT'S ALL PAST!





"HE WAS A DEAD SHOT-- BUT HE ALWAYS AIMED TO DISARM, NOT TO KILL--"



"-- SO HE GAINED A CONSIDERABLE FOLLOWING AS A CRIMEFIGHTER! BUT ALL THE WHILE, HE WAS SCHEMING TO USE HIS NEW CLOUT TO TAKE OVER THE CITY'S RACKETS!"

"THEN ROBIN AND I TRIED TO PROVE IT--"



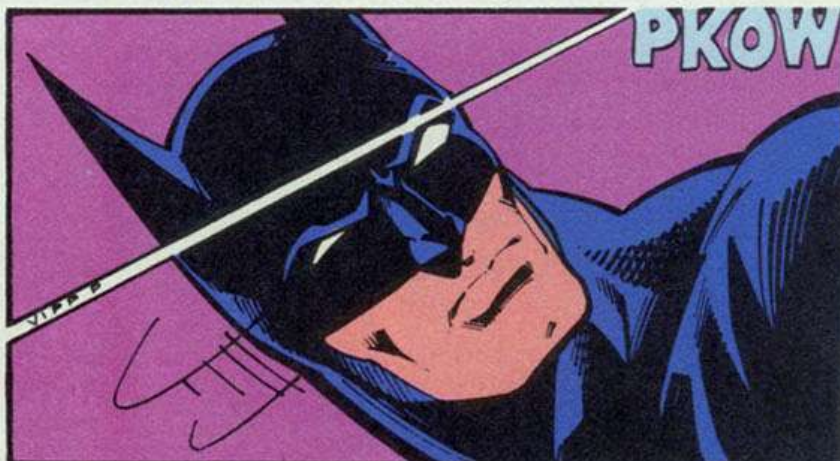
"-- IT LOOKED LIKE I WAS CRYING SOUR GRAPES! HE CAME CLOSE TO RUNNING ME OUT OF OWN TOWN--OR MURDERING ME!"

"BUT I FOUND OUT WHO HE WAS -- SNEAKED IN AND ALTERED HIS GUNSIGHTS-- SO WHEN HE TRIED TO KILL ME-- HE MISSED!"



HE WAS JUST LIKE BOSS THORNE! THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, ETC...!

NOBODY LIKES A LONE BAT-- IF THEY'VE GOT SOMETHING TO HIDE!



PKOW



TOP OF THE ELLSWORTH BUILDING--

--SOME SORT OF POWER - BOOST ON THE RIFLE--!



BATMAN! I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! THIS IS DEADSHOT!

DEADSHOT!

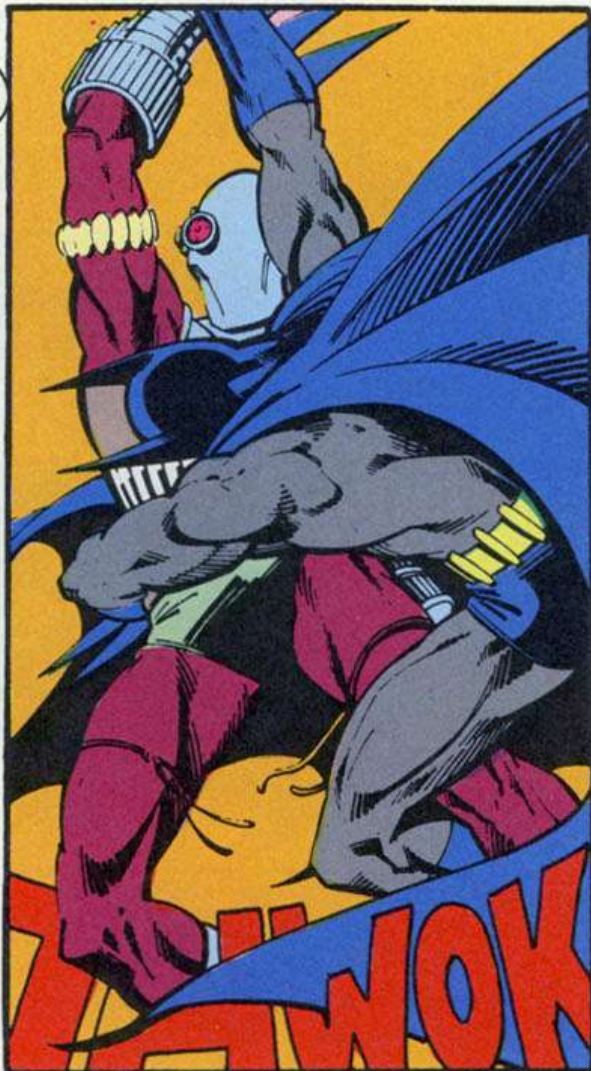
I TRIED YOU ONCE THE CLEVER WAY-- THE RICH MAN'S WAY! I TRIED TO SIMPLY DISCREDIT YOU-- BUT THAT FAILED, SO I PLANNED A "SHOOTING ACCIDENT"!!

AND YOU OUTSMARTED ME! I WAS A WEALTHY MAN-- I WAS SOMEBODY-- TILL YOU PUT ME IN A CELL-- MADE ME JUST ANOTHER CON--

-- BUT I LEARNED SOMETHING IN THERE!

I LEARNED TO RELY ON POWER NOT BRAINS! I LEARNED NOT TO PLAY THOSE FANCY GAMES!

MY NEW BLASTERS ARE LIKE PARTS OF MY ARMS! EVERY MAGNUM CHARGE I FIRE COMES STRAIGHT FROM ME-- FROM MY HATE--
-- NOT FROM SOME FANCY SPORTING GUN! NOW-- I TOUCH MY MIDDLE FINGER TO THE FIRING BUTTON IN MY PALM AND--



MY SUDDEN APPEARANCE DIDN'T EVEN FAZE HIM!

I WORKED OUT EVERY DAY IN PRISON, BATMAN! I HAD NO SUPER-POWER-- NO ESCAPE GIMMICKS--

--BUT I KNEW, SOMEDAY, I'D GET MY CHANCE!

WHAT A WASTE OF ALL THAT TIME!

WASTE? NO!

NOT WHEN I CAN BE THE MAN WHO KILLED THE BATMAN!

THAT'S BEEN TRIED BY EXPERTS--

--AND I'M STILL HERE!

HE'S UP AS FAST AS I AM!

COUNCILMAN MURPHY THORNE
SAYS: "HELP KEEP GOTHAM CITY CLEAN!"

BUT NO SOONER HAS DEADSHOT TOPPLED, THAN HE LAUNCHES A NEW DEVICE FROM HIS RIGHT BLASTER!

THOK

COME ON, CHAMP--

-- CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!

MY PLEASURE!

HA HA HA HA HA

WHAT LAUGH -- FAMILIAR?

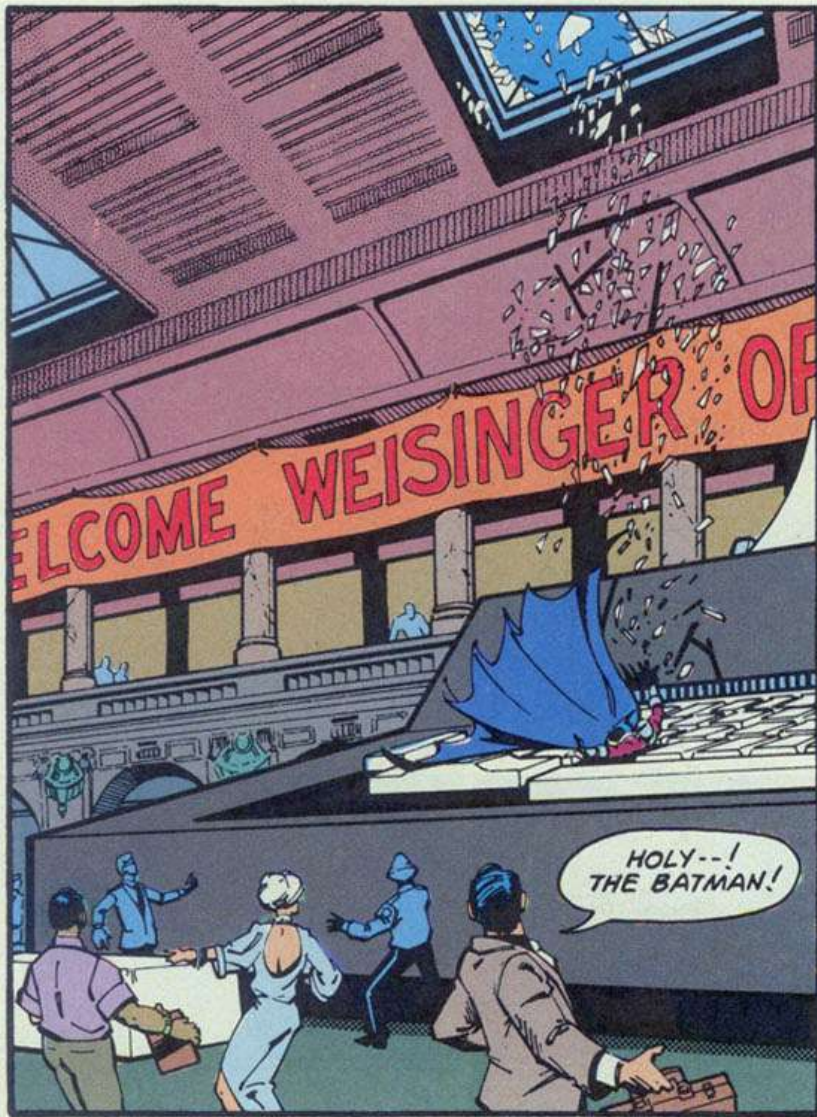
HA HA HA HA HA

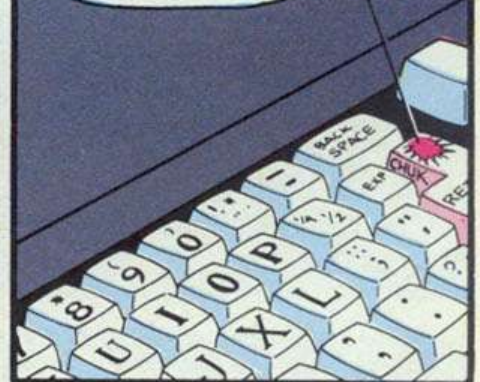
WHAT IS THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE UP TO? SORRY, THAT MUST WAIT TILL NEXT ISSUE!

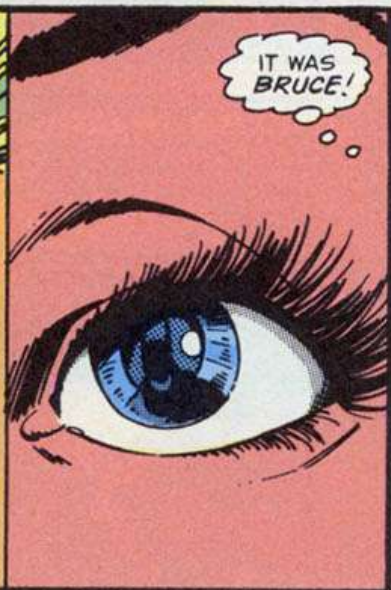
AHA HA HA HA HA

MY GOD! DEADSHOT'S LANDED ON TOP OF SILVER'S CONVENTION HALL!

KRASH









APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS

HANDS UP,
BATMAN!
I'VE GOT YOU
COVERED!

XI XII

5-2791

WHAT IS THE
SECRET OF
THE JOKER'S
NEW WEAPON--
THE
LAUGHING
FISH?



ROGERS
AUSTIN

THUNDERHEADS ARE MASSING ON THE WESTERN HORIZON... BUT THE STORM REFUSES TO BREAK! IT LOWERS OUT THERE, MUTTERING, FILLING THE OZONE WITH SUBTLE ELECTRIC CHARGE!

IN THE CITY, STRAP-HANGERS SNARL AND BUS DRIVERS BARK!

KNIVES GLINT IN BAR-ROOMS, AND SAVAGE SCREAMS MINGLE WITH THE MIDTOWN TUMULT, UNHEARD!

AND THE BATMAN PROWL...

THERE! THAT'S THE ROOM I WANT!

BUT TO ENTER IT MAY MEAN MY FINISH!

STEVE ENGLEHART - WRITER
MARSHALL ROGERS - PENCILLER
TERRY AUSTIN - INKER
BEN ODA - LETTERER
MARSHALL ROGERS - COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ - EDITOR

BATMAN

CREATED BY
BOB KANE

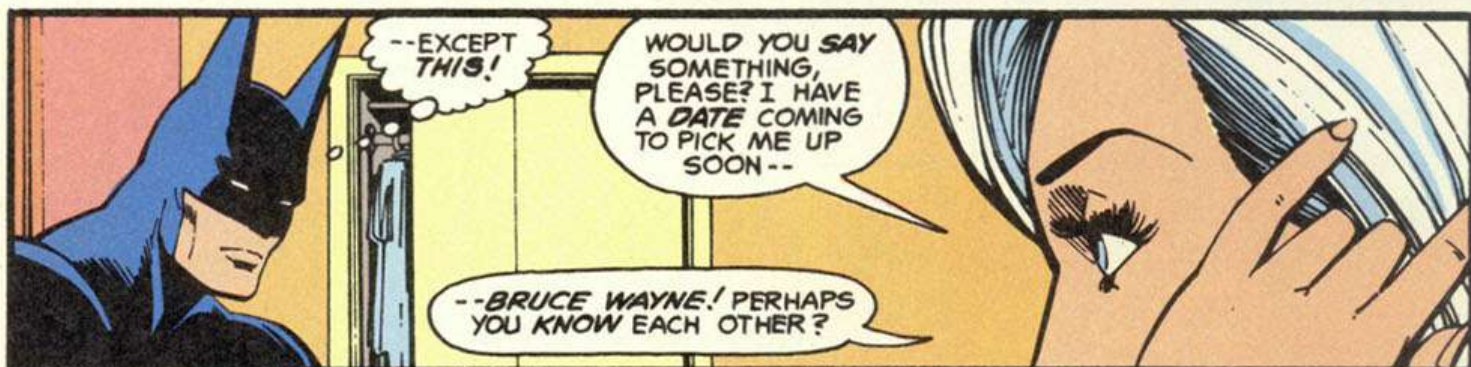
THE LAUGHING FISH!"

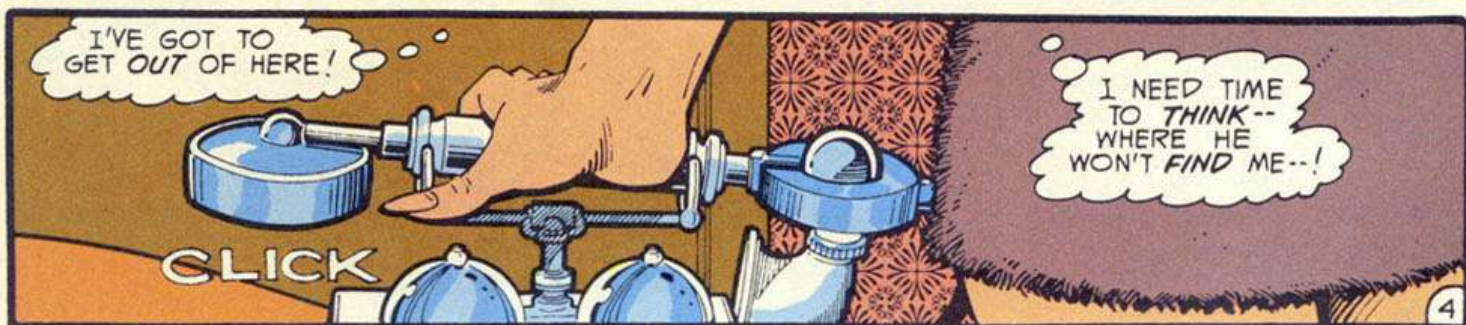


UNHEARD AND UNSEEN, THE BATMAN REMAINS STILL FOR SEVERAL MOMENTS, WEIGHING IT ALL AGAIN IN HIS MIND...



*LAST ISH--JULIE





HERE'S A LOT OF
THINKING GOING
ON TONIGHT...
VERY SERIOUS
THINKING...

... BUT DON'T DESPAIR, ACTION-LOVERS!
YOUR DAY IS DAWNING SOON!

THEY SAY THE
BATMAN CAN
SOLVE ANYTHING--

-- BUT HE'S UP A STUMP ON THIS
ONE! "DOES SHE OR DOESN'T SHE?"--

--AND
WHAT IF
SHE
DOES?

I'VE GONE TO
GREAT LENGTHS
TO KEEP MY
IDENTITY SECRET,
FOR THE BEST
OF REASONS!

--BRUCE WAYNE
MUST REMAIN A
SAFE RETREAT!

I CRIED NO TEARS WHEN
MAGDA BECAME A MONSTER!*

* SHE AND HUGO STRANGE LEARNED THE
SECRET IN 'TEC #471-472.' -- JULIE

BUT I DON'T
WANT SILVER
TO GO THAT
ROUTE--

--I JUST
WANT
HER--

--PERIOD!

--I'M IN LOVE WITH THAT GIRL--
THE REAL ME, UNDERNEATH
ALL THE MASKS!

AND STILL, THE MAN
BENEATH THE MASK
CAN'T BE CARELESSLY
REVEALED! MY
SECRETS ARE MY
PROTECTION FROM
DEATH!

EVER SINCE
JOE CHILL
STEPPED OUT
OF THE DARK
TO GUN MY
PARENTS DOWN--

--MY WORLD
GOES CRAZY
SOMETIMES!

HELP!
HELP, POLICE!



BATMAN! OUR FISH! OUR FISH!

GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF, MAN! WHAT ARE YOU YELLING ABOUT?



LOOK!



WHAT THE--! ALL OF THEM-- WITH THE JOKER'S FACE!?

ALL OF 'EM! AND IT'S THE SAME FOR EVERYBODY ELSE!



OUR WHOLE CATCH IS CONTAMINATED WITH THAT LUNATIC GRIN! HERRING-- COD--! ALL OF 'EM LAUGHING AT US!

IT SCARES THE BRITCHES OFF ME!

IT'S SUPPOSED TO! FEAR CLOUDS YOUR MIND, AND THAT'S THE JOKER'S STRONGEST WEAPON!



BUT WHAT DOES HE WANT? WHY WOULD HE MAKE THE FISH LOOK LIKE HIM?

THAT I DON'T KNOW! WITH ORDINARY MEN, YOU MIGHT FIGURE SOME MOTIVE--

--BUT THE JOKER'S MIND IS CLOUDED IN MADNESS! HIS MOTIVES MAKE SENSE TO HIM ALONE!

IN THE HOURS THAT FOLLOW,
THE STRANGE PHENOMENON
PROVES TO BE *LESS* THAN
AN *ISOLATED EVENT*!



ALL ALONG THE
EASTERN SEABOARD...

...AND UP AND DOWN THE
WESTERN, AS WELL...

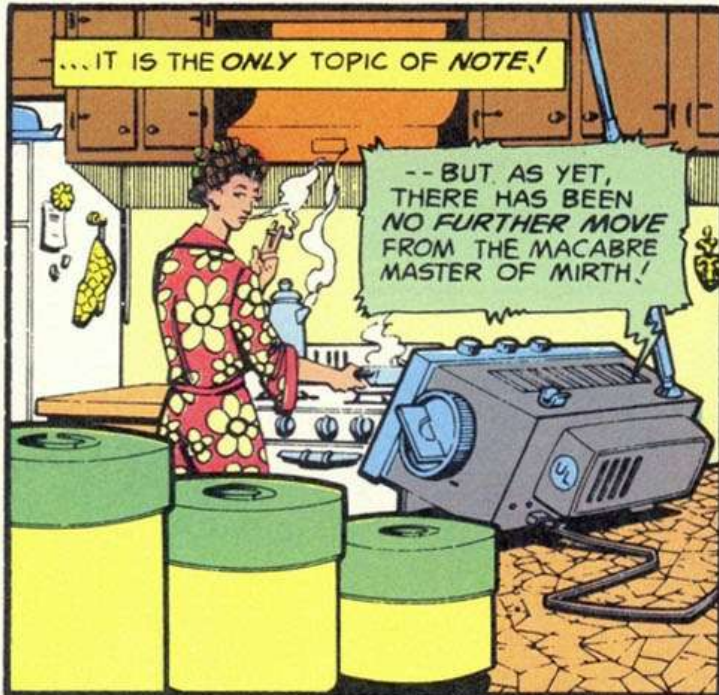


... THE JOKER-FISH ARE
SUDDENLY EVERYWHERE!

WHEN AMERICA AWAKES
TO ITS MORNING MEDIA...



...IT IS THE ONLY TOPIC OF NOTE!



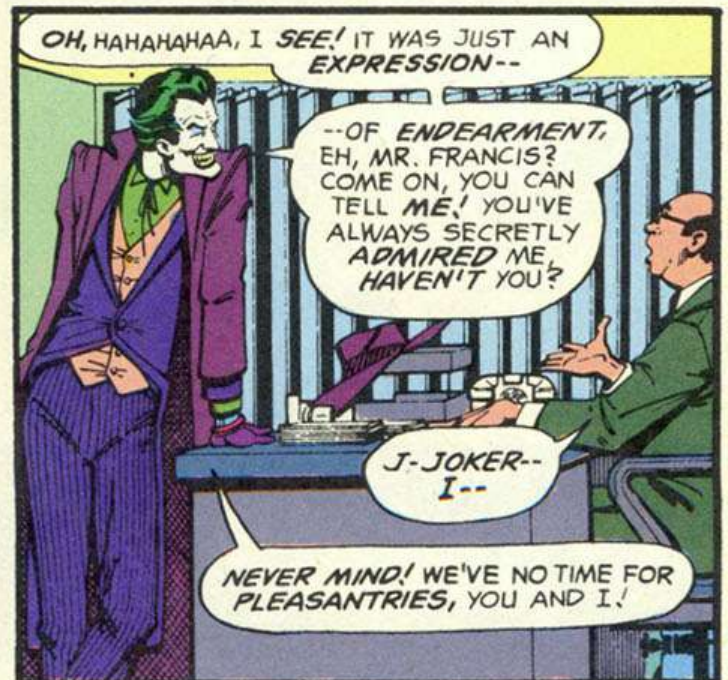
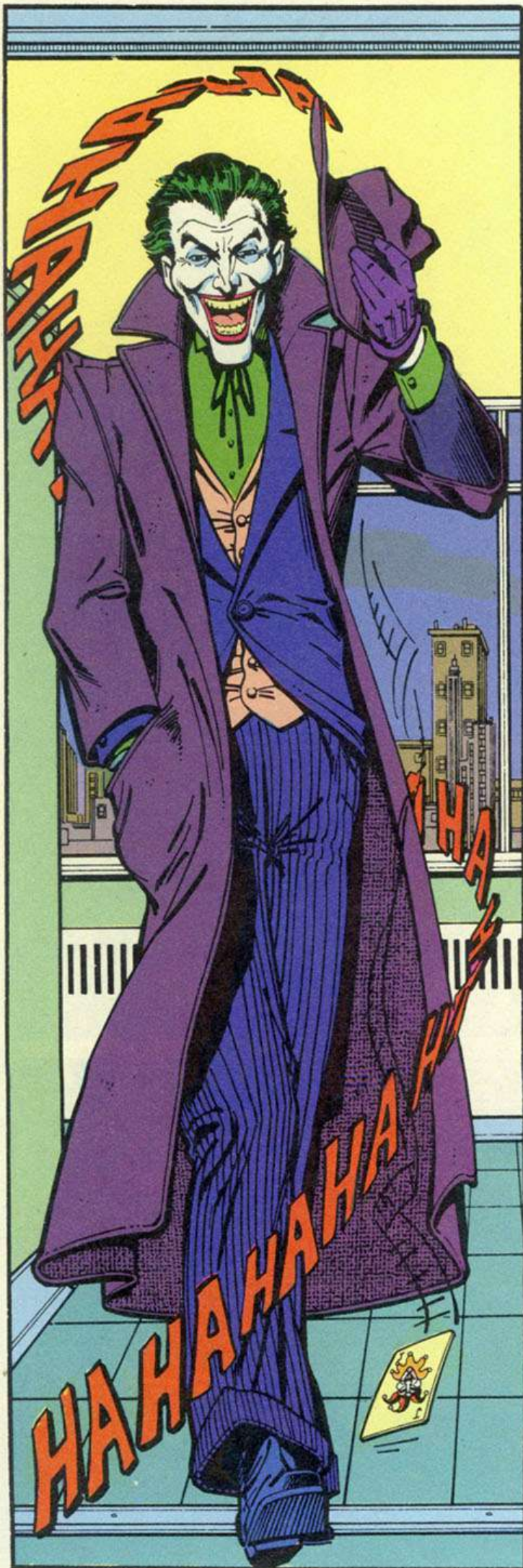
-- BUT AS YET,
THERE HAS BEEN
NO FURTHER MOVE
FROM THE MACABRE
MASTER OF MIRTH!

HIGH NOON, IN GOTHAM CITY--



BUTTON IT, LADY! NO
NOISE FROM NOBODY!

HANDS
BEHIND YOUR
HEADS! YOU'VE
GOT A VISITOR!





WH-WHAT
ARRANGEMENTS?

FOR MY FISH,
OF COURSE!



I MIGHT AS WELL TELL
YOU, FRANCIS--THIS HAS
ALL BEEN WORKED OUT
FAR IN ADVANCE! YOU
ARE, FINALLY, JUST A COG,
SO DON'T SPEAK TO ME
AGAIN!

NOW--WHAT IS EVERYBODY
IN THE COUNTRY TALKING
ABOUT?

UH...
YOUR FISH...?



I TOLD YOU NOT
TO TALK! I DON'T
NEED YOU TO ANSWER
MY QUESTIONS! I CAN
ANSWER MY QUESTIONS
MYSELF!



I ALWAYS
ANSWER MY
QUESTIONS
MYSELF!



HURUMPH... AS I WAS SAYING...

... EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT MY
JOKER-FISH! THEY ALL RECOGNIZE
THE **FACE**--IT'S MY FORTUNE, EVEN
ON A **FLOUNDER'S FIZZ**-- AND
SINCE I PLAN TO **CONTINUE**
SECRETLY DUMPING THE **CHEMICAL**
THAT GIVES THE FISH MY FACE, THE
LITTLE FINNIES ARE **PERMANENTLY**
IDENTIFIED WITH ME! NO MATTER
WHAT THEY **ONCE** WERE, THEY'RE
JUST **JOKER-FISH** NOW!



5000...

...ONCE WE
FILL OUT ALL
YOUR TEDIOUS
COPYRIGHT
FORMS--

-- I'LL GET
A CUT OF
EVERY
FISH-SALE
IN AMERICA!



A NICKEL PER FISH-
SANDWICH--FIFTY CENTS
FOR FILET OF SOLE!
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS A
DAY, TO FINANCE MY FRANKLY
HEDONISTIC LIFE-STYLE!
AND ALL SO SIMPLE!
WHAT A JOKE!
HA HA HA HA HA

LT 9
35

HEAT
RESISTANT

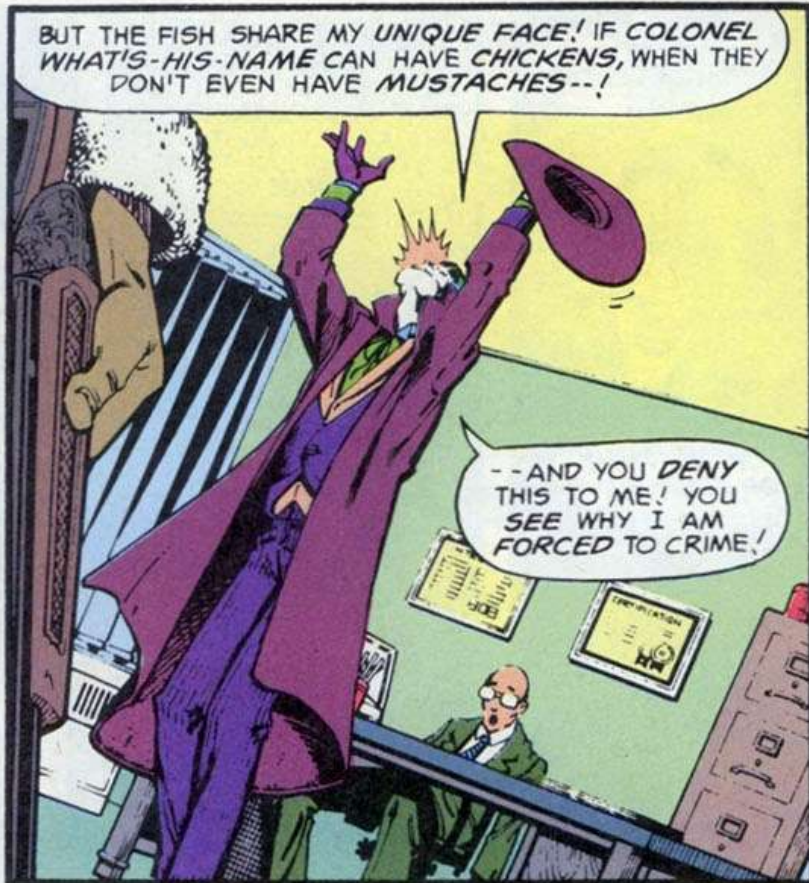
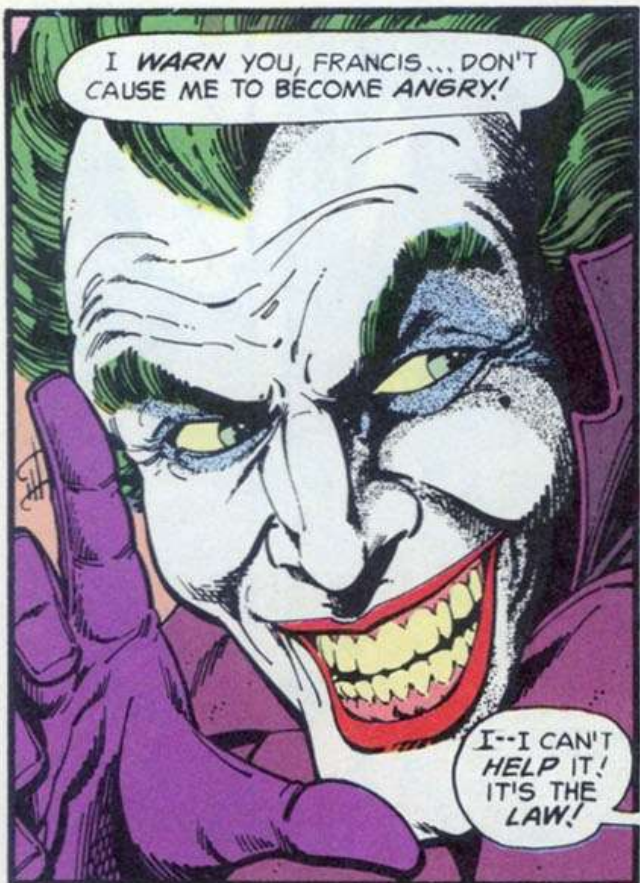
Letras
produces
England

JOKER, IT--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



WHAT? IMPOSSIBLE,
YOU SAY? NO--

--NOBODY CAN
COPYRIGHT FISH--OR
EVEN FISH FACES!
THEY'RE A NATURAL
RESOURCE!





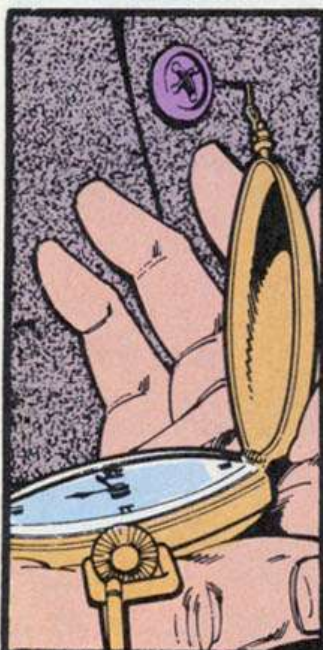
--MIND
YOUR OWN
BUSINESS!

HONK

WHA--?!

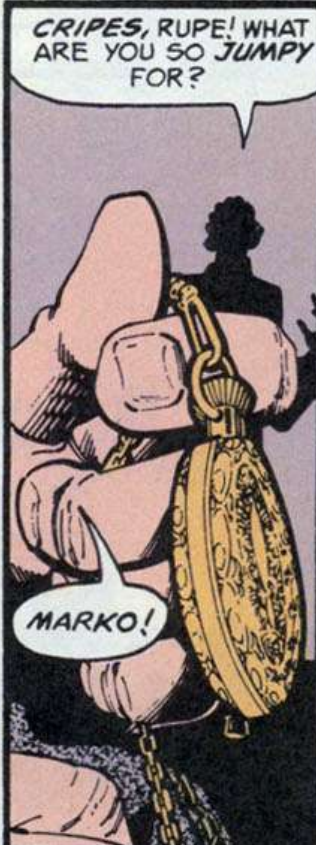
HAHAHAHAHA

THREE-THIRTY, AT
THE ELEGANT
TOBACCONISTS'
CLUB, WHERE THE
GOTHAM ELITE
MEET AND GREET...



RUPERT--?

UH--!



CRIPES, RUPE! WHAT
ARE YOU SO JUMPY
FOR?

MARKO!



WELL, O'COURSE!
WHO ELSE, RUPE?

ARE YOU TAKIN' THOSE
DIET PILLS AGAIN? YOU
DON'T LOOK GOOD!



I'M FINE,
PAISAN! FINE!
TOUGH AS
NAILS!

WHATEVER
YOU SAY!
YOU'RE THE
BOSS!

C'MON-- THE COUNCIL MEETIN'S
ABOUT TO START! THE BOYS ARE
WAITIN' FOR YA!

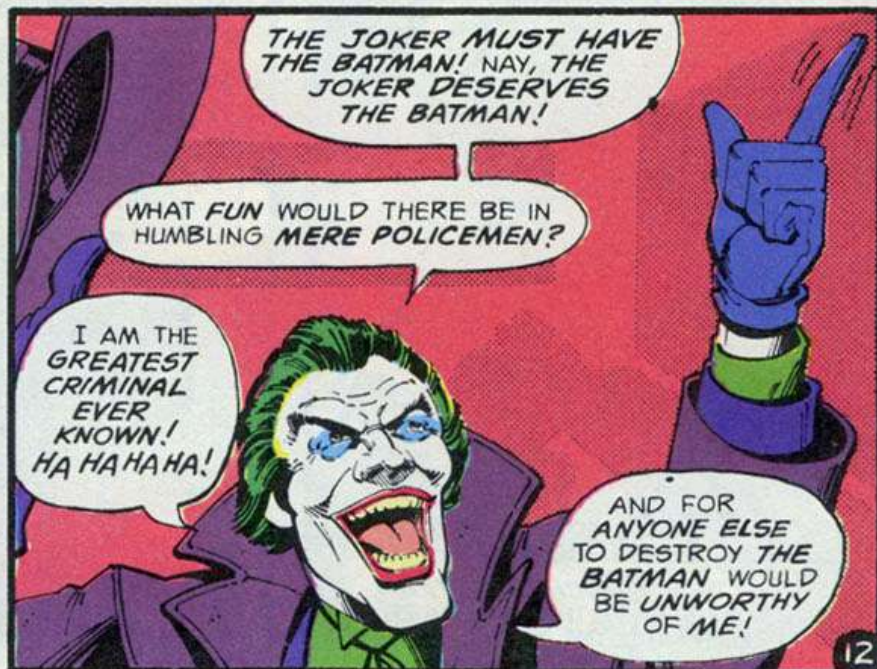


THEY WANNA KNOW ABOUT YOUR BIG PLAN
FOR THE BATMAN, RUPE! WE AIN'T HEARD
WHAT YOU WORKED UP FOR 'IM YET, AN' THE
BIT ABOUT DECLARIN' 'IM OFF LIMITS AIN'T
COMIN' OFF TOO WELL!

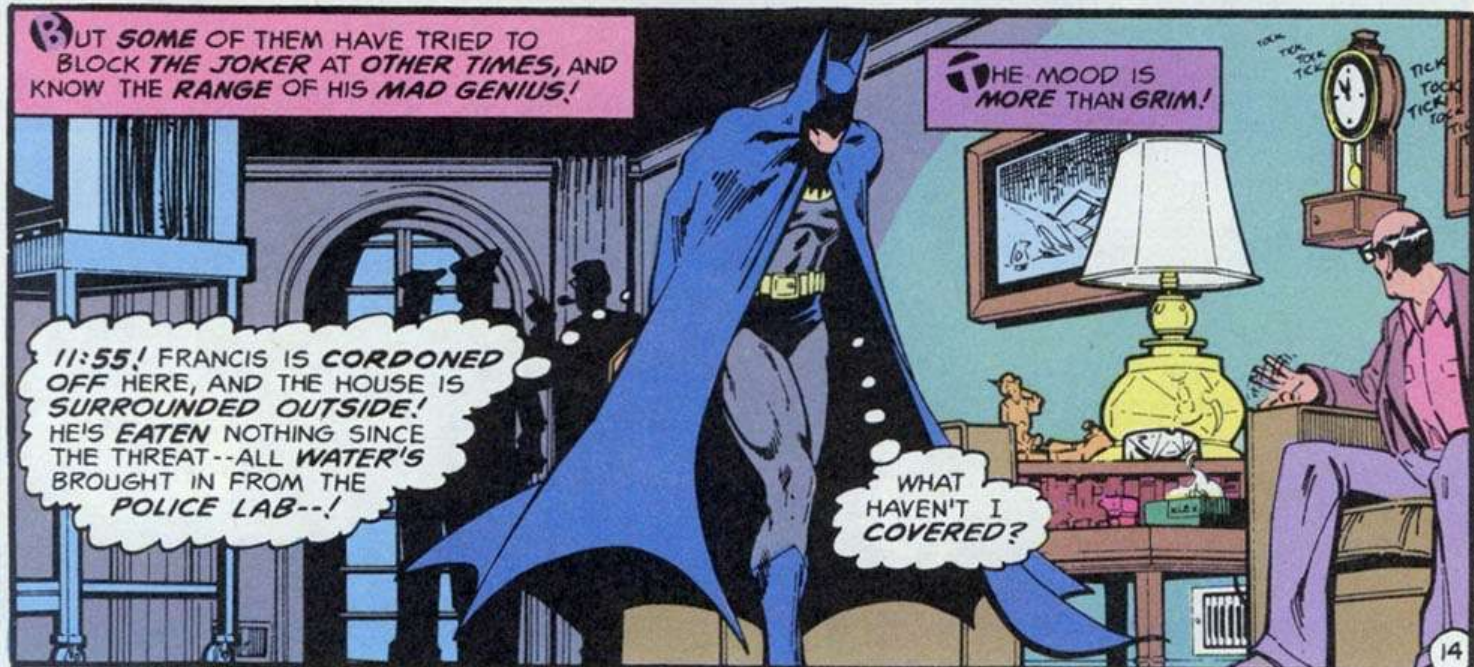
PEOPLE JUST DON'T
LISTEN TO US LIKE
THEY USED TO! THE
LOUSY MEDIA---

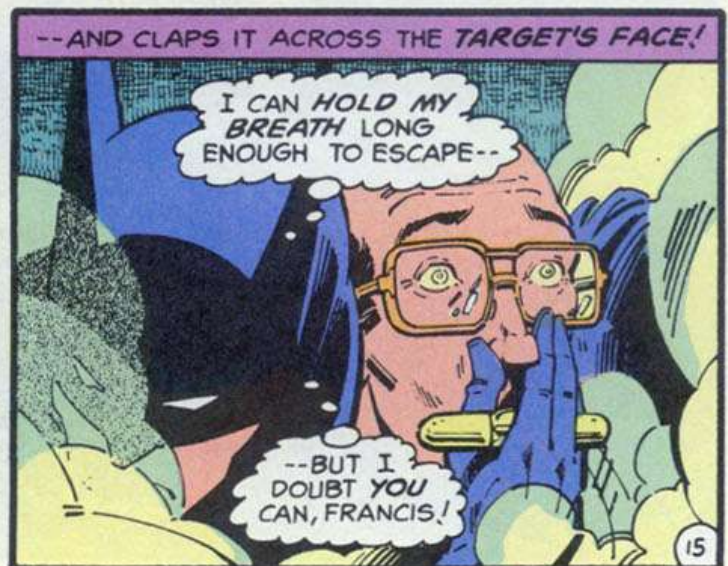
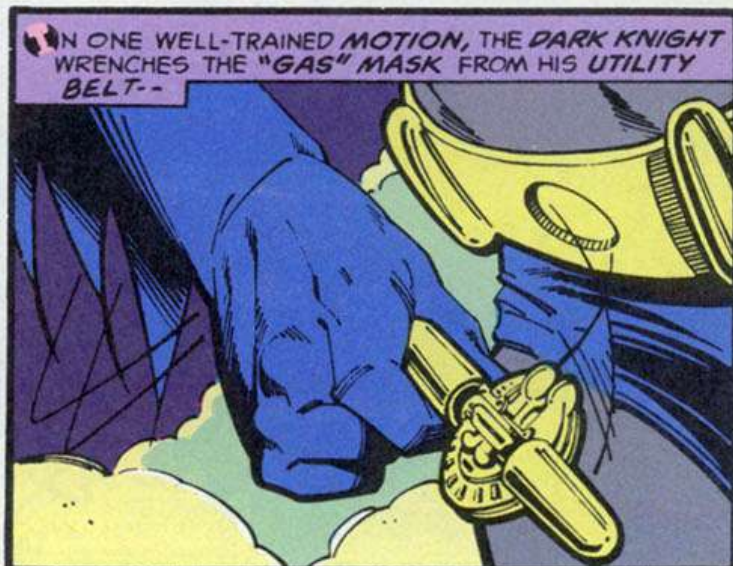
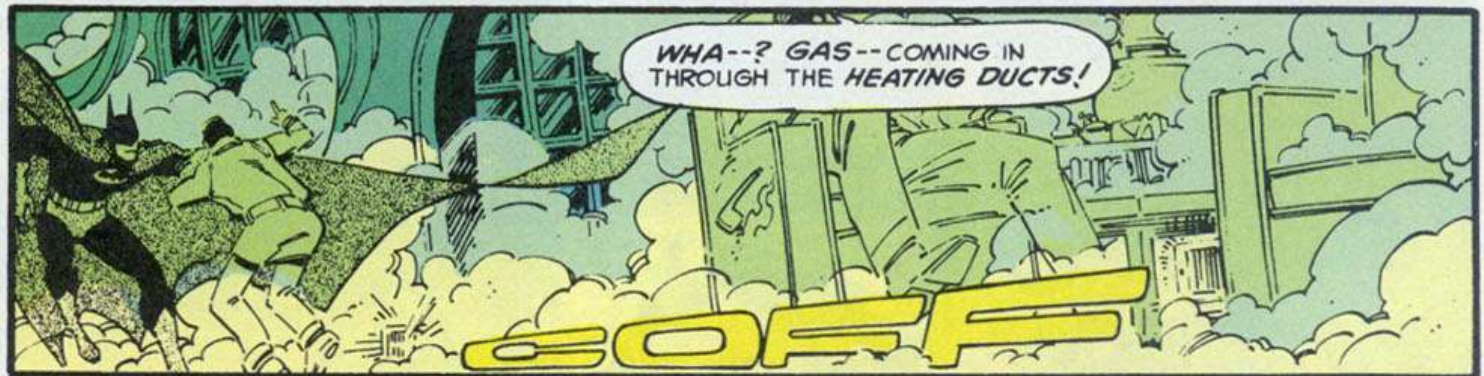
UH--
LISTEN--
MARKO--
I'VE GOT
TO WASH
UP FIRST!

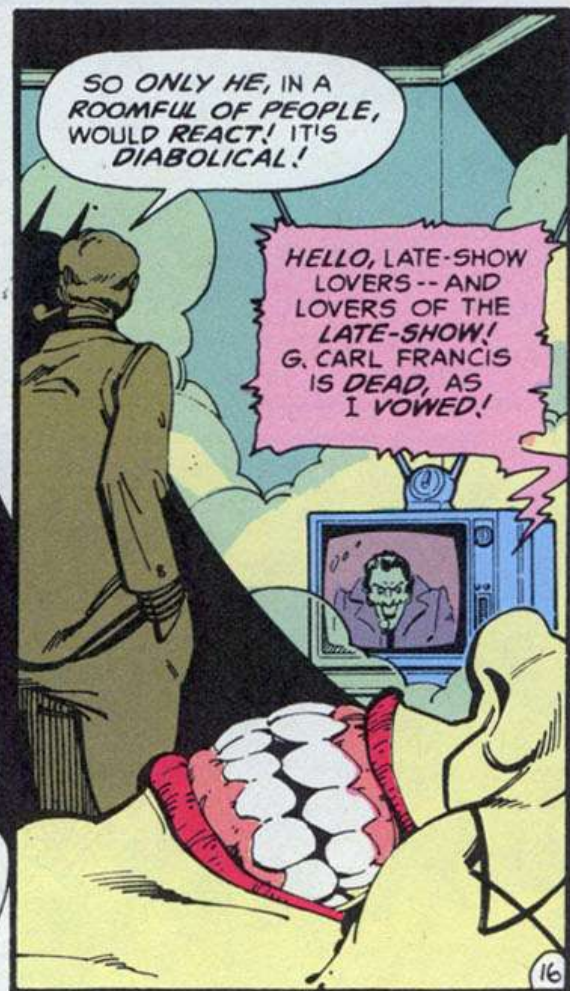
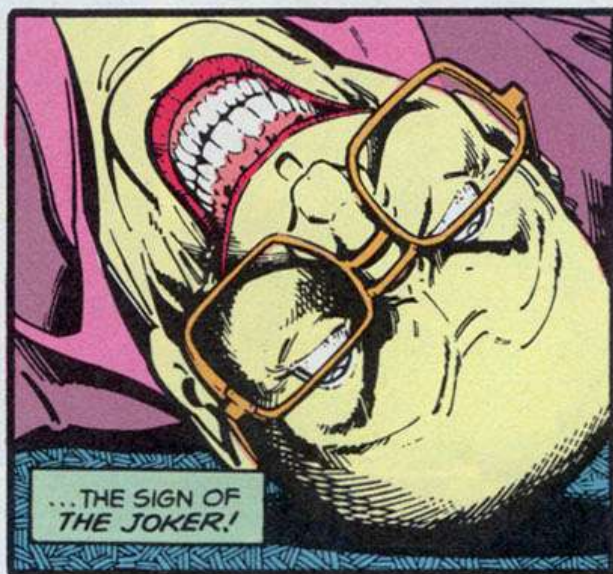
I'LL MEET YOU INSIDE!

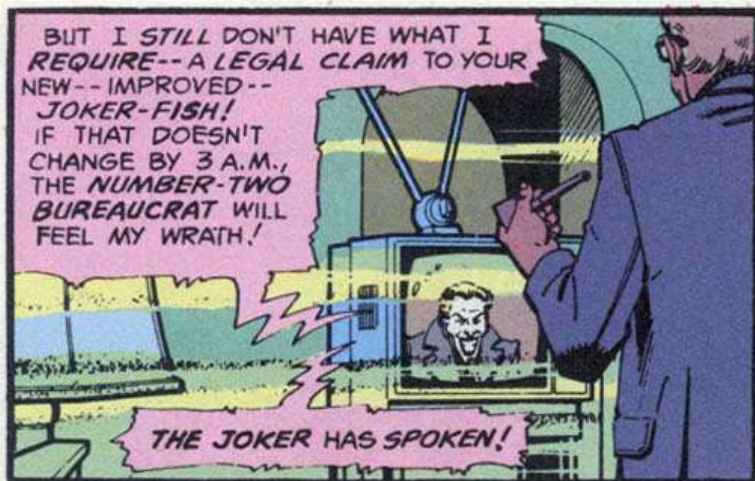












BUT I STILL DON'T HAVE WHAT I REQUIRE-- A LEGAL CLAIM TO YOUR NEW-- IMPROVED-- JOKER-FISH! IF THAT DOESN'T CHANGE BY 3 A.M., THE NUMBER-TWO BUREAUCRAT WILL FEEL MY WRATH!

THE JOKER HAS SPOKEN!



THE BATMAN MAKES NO REPLY!



MEANWHILE, SOME THREE HUNDRED MILES TO THE WEST...

HUH? IT'S A GIRL--!



HI! I'M SURE GLAD YOU STOPPED! SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY CAR!

HEY! AREN'T YOU--



--RUPERT THORNE?

UH--YEAH! WE MET AT BRUCE WAYNE'S PARTY, DIDN'T WE? WAS IT--



--SILVER?

IT WAS!

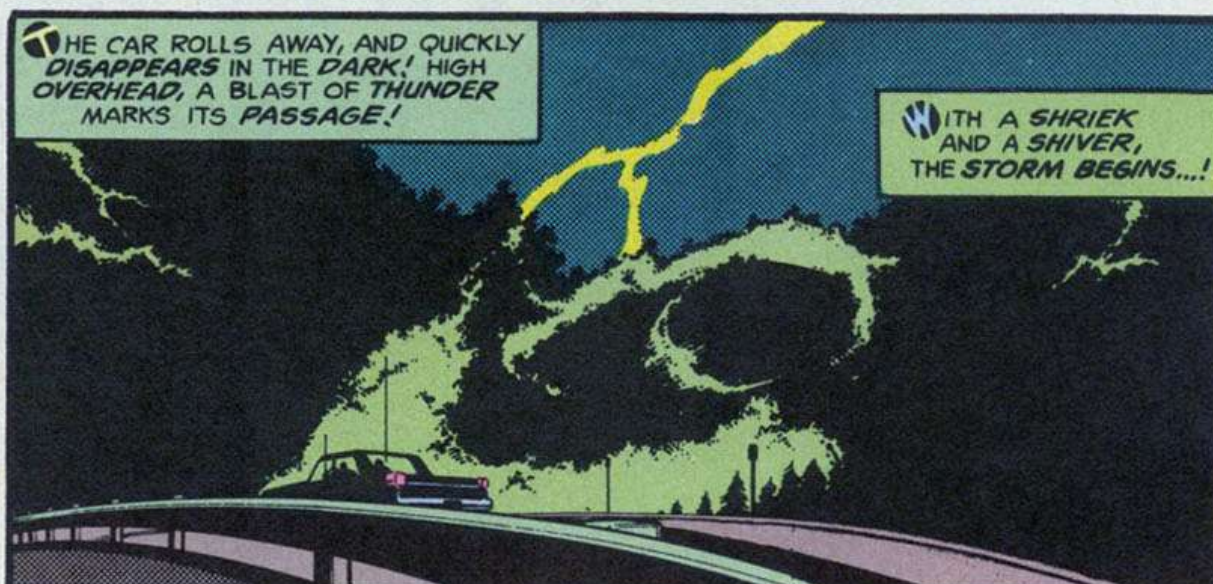
CAN YOU GIVE ME A LIFT?

WELL-- I'M IN A HURRY--



GREAT! SO AM I!

IT SURE WAS LUCKY MEETING YOU HERE!



THE CAR ROLLS AWAY, AND QUICKLY DISAPPEARS IN THE DARK! HIGH OVERHEAD, A BLAST OF THUNDER MARKS ITS PASSAGE!

WITH A SHRIEK AND A SHIVER, THE STORM BEGINS...!



NO. 474

APR. 1965

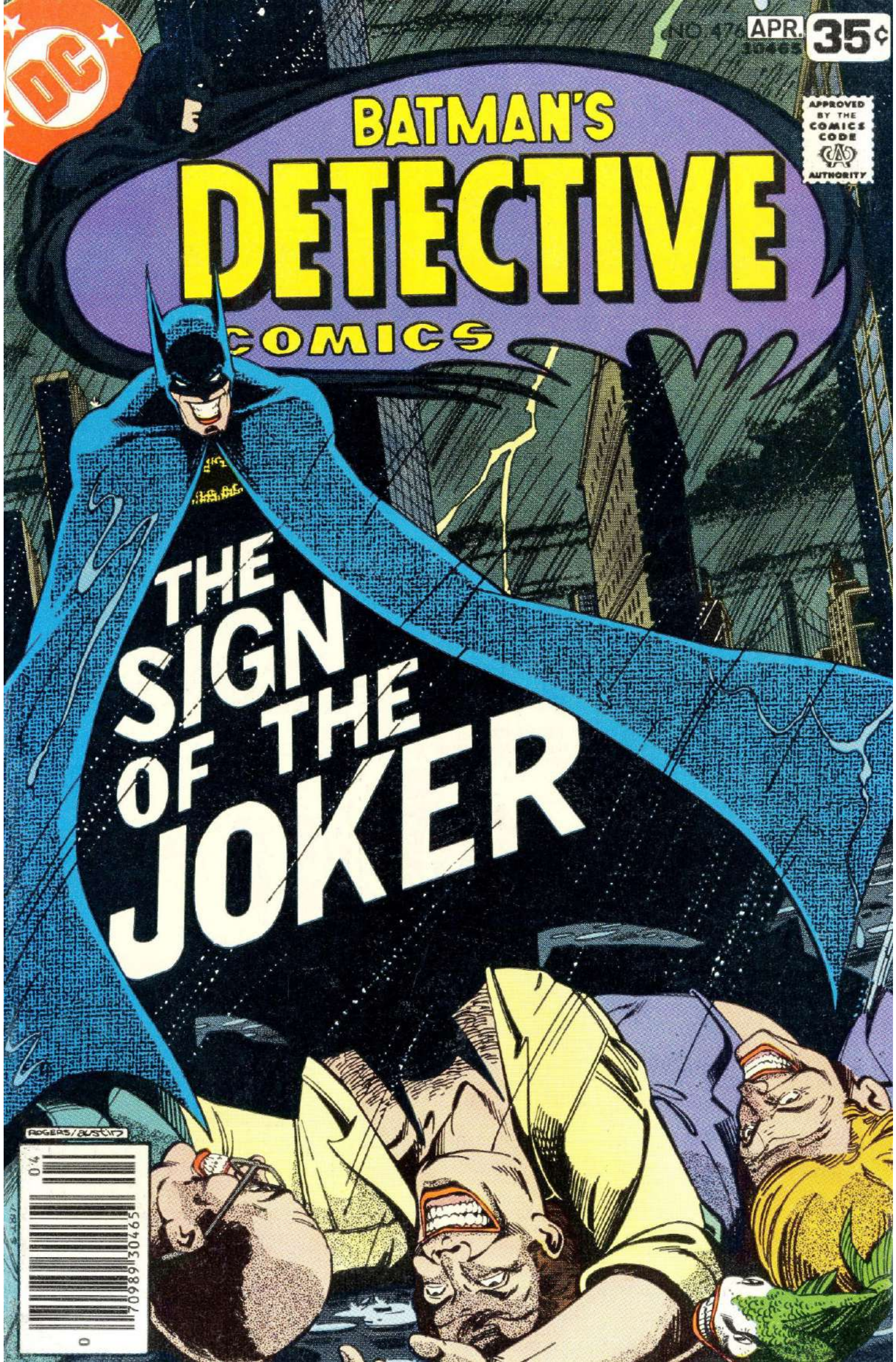
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS

THE SIGN OF THE JOKER

ROGERS/BUSCH



IN AN ALMOST LEGENDARY FIGURE, THE COWLED SHADOW OF THE BATMAN PROWLs THROUGH THE NIGHT, PREYING UPON CRIMINAL PARASITES LIKE THE WINGED CREATURE WHOSE NAME HE HAS ADOPTED!

BUT THIS NIGHT, A PARASITE HAS REMAINED MADDENINGLY ELUSIVE! THE JOKER, ARCH-CRIMINAL TO THE WORLD, HAS THREATENED DEATH FOR MEN WHOSE ONLY OFFENSE WAS FAILING TO FOLLOW THE CRIME-CLOWN'S LUNATIC LOGIC!

BATMAN

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

STEVE ENGLEHART: WRITER * MARSHALL ROGERS: PENCILLER * TERRY AUSTIN: INKER
MILTON SNAPINN: LETTERER * MARSHALL ROGERS: COLORIST * JULIUS SCHWARTZ: EDITOR

HE CLAIMS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL FISH-SALES IN THE COUNTRY, BECAUSE HE CAUSED THE FISHES' FACES TO RESEMBLE HIS OWN! YOU SEE--YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT ANY BETTER THAN THE COPYRIGHT COMMISSION DID! BUT ONE OF THEM HAS ALREADY DIED THIS NIGHT--

--AND THE NIGHT IS
FAR FROM FINISHED!

THREE A.M., IN A BLINDING
RAINSTORM, I DON'T LIKE
THE FEEL OF IT, O'HARA!

IT'S JOKER
WEATHER!

TRUE, COMMISSIONER ...
BUT IT'S ALSO TAILOR-
MADE --

--FOR HIM!

"SIGN OF THE JOKER!"

WELL, OUR PREPARATIONS ARE **COMPLETE**-- BUT THEY WERE BEFORE THAT DARNED JACKANAPES KILLED G. CARL FRANCIS AT MIDNIGHT!

I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS JOB! I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT NO MATTER WHAT WE DO...

NOW, COMMISSIONER, DON'T BE TALKIN' LIKE THAT! YE'VE ALWAYS PUT THE JOKER BEHIND BARS IN THE END!

IT AIN'T OUR FAULT THE DEATH-PENALTY DON'T APPLY TO **CRAZIES**!

BESIDES, YE DON'T WANT TO BE SCARIN' THE LAD WE'RE HERE TO **PROTECT**!

MR. JACKSON'S HOLDIN' UP QUITE WELL ... **CONSIDERIN'**!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

...BUT WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!

IT'S ALMOST THREE!

WHAT WAS THAT?

OH, IT'S JUST **ERNEST**, COMMISSIONER-- MY CAT! HE'S BEEN OUT PROWLING SINCE BEFORE YOU ARRIVED!

HE'S HARMLESS!

THAT'S AS MAY BE, JACKSON -- BUT LOOK WHAT HE'S GOT IN HIS MOUTH!

MY GOD! A JOKER-FISH!

THERE'S SOMETHING **WRONG**!

THE FISH HAS AFFECTED HIM!

ERNEST! OUTSIDE!

MEERROWWW

MEEH

HEE





THE JOKER
HAS SPOKEN!
HAHAHAHA

AND FROM SOMEWHERE
NEARBY, TOO! NO TV STATION
IS BROADCASTING AT THIS
HOUR, SO HE MUST BE JAMMING
THE FREQUENCY ON HIS OWN
TRANSMITTER!



I'LL BE IN
TOUCH!

THE JOKER'S
LAUGH HAS BEEN
LIKENED TO RAINING
ICE-CUBES...AND
THAT'S JUST WHAT
THE DARK DECEMBER
DELUGE FEELS LIKE
AS THE BATMAN
SWINGS INTO
ACTION!



FREED, NOW, OF HIS BINDING
DISGUISE, HIS BLOOD SINGING
IN HIS VEINS, THE BATMAN
RETURNS TO HIS ELEMENT!



AND THEN--

EH? THAT
SHIMMERING
FORM--!

IT
LOOKS
LIKE--



--HUGO
STRANGE!

BUT WHEN SIX POUNDING
STRIDES CARRY HIM
INTO THE WOODS--



GONE!

OR--WAS HE EVER
HERE? HE'S BEEN
MISSING SO LONG, I
WAS ALMOST SURE
HE'D BOUGHT IT.*

*AND INDEED, STRANGE
IS DEAD-- BUT HIS
MURDER AT RUPERT
THORNE'S ORDERS HAS
SO FAR ESCAPED
DETECTION!
-- JULIE



NO FOOTPRINTS! THE
GRASS ISN'T EVEN BENT--

WAIT A
MINUTE!

WHAT'S
THIS?



B EYOND ANY DOUBT, HE KNOWS THIS WAS LEFT HERE FOR HIM--BUT WHO LEFT IT? HOW? AND WHY?



A ND IN ANOTHER PART OF THAT WORLD... IN THE CRIME CLOWN'S NEW HA-HACIENDA...



...TO RUPERT THORNE,
POLITICAL BOSS OF
GOTHAM CITY...

...AND HIS HITCH-HIKING
PASSENGER, SILVER ST. CLOUD!

WE MUST BE CLOSE
TO AKRON! WE'VE BEEN
DRIVING NEARLY FOUR
HOURS SINCE HE
PICKED ME UP!

I GUESS I SHOULD
HAVE GOTTEN OUT AT THE
FIRST GAS STATION--
GONE BACK TO FIX
MY CAR! BUT--I
DON'T NEED MY CAR!

I NEED TIME TO
THINK-- ABOUT
BRUCE AND ME!
WHO CARES WHERE
I AM, IF IT'S
NOT GOTHAM?

WHAT AM I GOING
TO DO? I'M SURE
BRUCE IS THE
BATMAN-- AND I
SHOULD SUMMON
UP THE NERVE, LIKE
I ALWAYS HAVE
BEFORE, AND DEAL
WITH WHATEVER
HAPPENS!

BUT I
CAN'T!

IT'S LIKE LEARNING HE'S
SECRETLY ROBERT REDFORD!
IF HE -- HE'S REALLY THE
BATMAN, AND HE HASN'T
WANTED TO TELL ME, HE
MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON--!

THANK GOD
THIS SKIRT
DOESN'T
TALK
MUCH!

I NEED THE COMPANY, BUT
I AIN'T IN SHAPE TO
KEEP UP A CONVERSATION!

IT WAS A MISTAKE TO
TAKE THE CAR MYSELF
AND LEAVE SGT. STARK
BEHIND! BUT WHEN THE
GHOST--

--THREATENED
ME--

--WELL,
I'M
TOUGH!

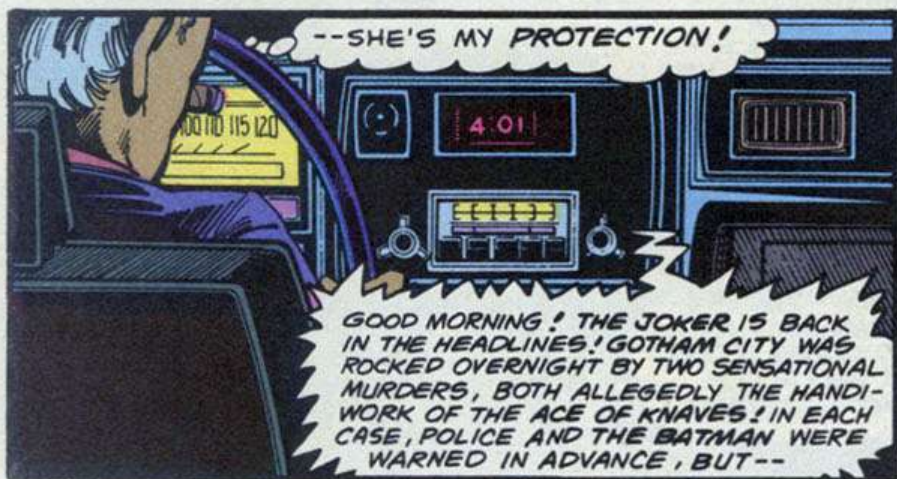


I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOUGH! BUT--I PUT MY HAND RIGHT THROUGH HIS BODY--!

HE SAID THE NEXT TIME HE APPEARED, I'D--I'D--!

BUT HE WON'T SHOW--NOT IF THE DAME WOULD GET IT WITH ME! HE HAD SOME KIND OF CRAZY CODE OF HONOR! YEAH--

IT'S FOUR O'CLOCK--
HEAR NOW THE NEWS!



--SHE'S MY PROTECTION!

GOOD MORNING! THE JOKER IS BACK IN THE HEADLINES! GOTHAM CITY WAS ROCKED OVERNIGHT BY TWO SENSATIONAL MURDERS, BOTH ALLEGEDLY THE HAND-
WORK OF THE ACE OF KNAVES! IN EACH CASE, POLICE AND THE BATMAN WERE WARNED IN ADVANCE, BUT--



SHOVE THE BATMAN, BUDDY!

CLICK

HUH?



LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, YOUNG LADY! (HARUMPH!...) AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOTHAM CITY COUNCIL, I DARE SAY YOUR TOWN WOULD BE A LOT BETTER OFF WITHOUT THE BATMAN!

THAT ONE MAN IS THE CAUSE OF ALL THE CITY'S PROBLEMS!



NOW, JUST A MINUTE--!

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE SO LILY-WHITE YOURSELF--"BOSS"!

THE WAY I HEAR IT, YOU AND YOUR "COUNCIL" HAVE BEEN GRAFTING OFF GOTHAM FOR YEARS! YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE POLITICAL MACHINE TO KEEP YOU ELECTED BY HOOK OR BY CROOK--!



I DON'T HAVE TO STAND FOR THIS!

YOUNG LADY, I'M DUE SOME RESPECT! I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE--

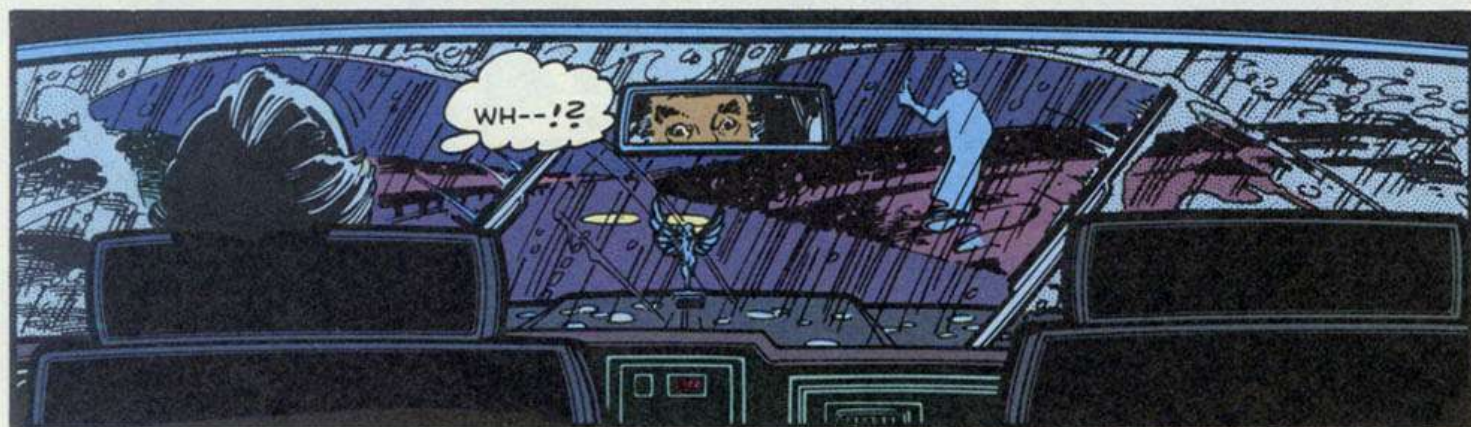
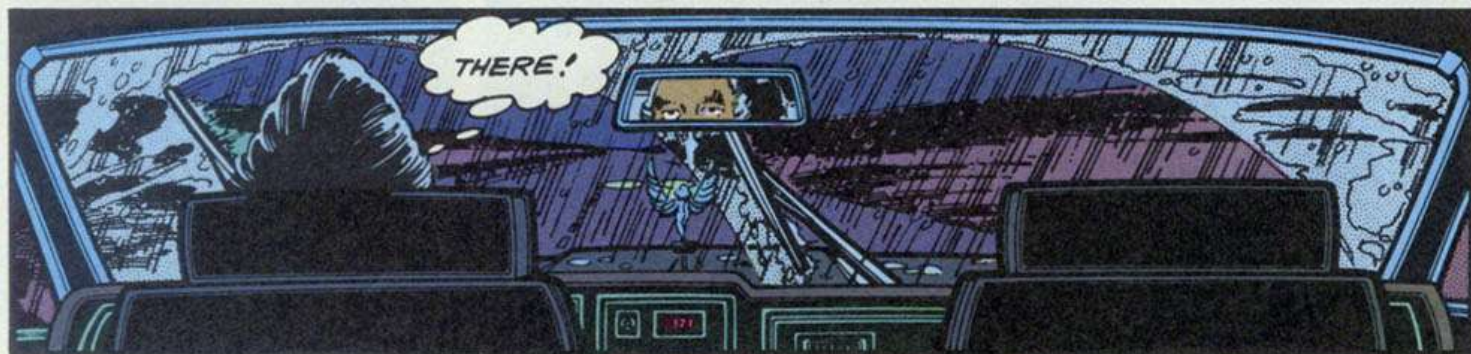
NOBODY WHO PUTS THE BATMAN DOWN IS DUE ANYTHING! I BET YOU'RE BEHIND THE CAMPAIGN TO HAVE HIM THROWN OUT OF TOWN!



THORNE, THAT ONE MAN HAS GIVEN HIS LIFE TO GOTHAM--THE CITY, THE PEOPLE--HE'S OUR AVENGING ANGEL!

THEY SAY NOBODY CARES ABOUT THE CITY ANYMORE, BUT HE DOES! HE--





WO HOURS LATER,
BACK IN GOTHAM
CITY-- JUST BEFORE
A WINTRY EAST-
COAST DAWN...

DID YOU GET ANY
SLEEP, COMMISSIONER?

A LITTLE, THANKS!
FORTY-FIVE MINUTES
OR SO!

YAWN! I CAN'T PULL
THESE ALL-NIGHT TOURS
ANYMORE, LIKE YOU!
AND WHY SHOULD I, WHEN
THE JOKER'S AS
DEPENDABLE AS
CLOCKWORK!

DAWN HE SAID,
DAWN IT'LL BE!

PERHAPS! BUT HE MAKES HIS PREPARATIONS
AHEAD OF TIME, JUST LIKE WE DO!

Y'KNOW, I
WAS DREAMING
ABOUT MY DAYS
ON THE BEAT!
BOSS THORNE
HAD JUST BEEN
ELECTED FOR
THE FIRST TIME,
AND HE CAME
TO ME--

YOU!

WHAT
TH--?

BATMAN! HAVE
YOU GONE CRAZY?
THAT'S ONE OF
OUR BOYS--!

NO, COMMISSIONER!
IT ONLY LOOKS LIKE
HIM!

LISTEN TO
THE MAN,
GORDON!

I KNEW YOU'D
HAVE ALL THE
CAT-DOORS PLUGGED
THIS TIME. SO I
CAME TO DO THE
JOB MYSELF!

LIVE--AND IN PERSON! THE
CALIPH OF CLOWNS-- THE
GRAND MOGUL OF MOUNTE-
BANKS--

--THE ONE AND
ONLY JOKER!

PRERECORDED FOR
THIS TIME-ZONE!

HIS BADGE--
SQUIRTING
SOMETHING!
LOOK OUT!



NICE WEATHER
FOR FISH, DON'T
YOU THINK?

I'M SO
IN TUNE
WITH
THE
TIMES!

NEXT WEEK I'M
LICENSING THIS FACE
TO ROCK BANDS!

LAUGH NOW--
CRY LATER,
JOKER!

I'LL LAUGH UNTIL
YOU HIT BOTTOM!
HOW'S THAT?

BATMAN--
HANG ON!

CLUP

THE CABBIE KNEW
WHERE TO FIND
HIM--THE JOKER
ANNOUNCED IT TO
THE WORLD--BUT
I NEVER EXPECTED
THIS!

ONE POTATO--
TWO POTATO--
THREE POTATO--
FOUR!

AND ALL MASHED!

HAVE I COME BACK
TO GOTHAM--JUST TO
SEE BRUCE DIE?

DON'T COUNT YOUR POTATOES
BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED,
MADMAN!

--AND THEN,
WITH HIS
PHENOMENAL
CAT-LIKE
GRACE, HE
HOLDS ON!

IN THE OLD
DAYS, COURT
JESTERS
WERE HELD
IN HIGH
ESTEEM!

--EXCEPT ME
FOR GOING
AFTER HIM!

THE FIRE ESCAPE
SHUDDERS UNDER
THE IMPACT OF THE
BATMAN'S BLOW...

THE JOKER STAGGERS TOWARD
THE EDGE OF ETERNITY--

YOU CAN'T
BEAT THE
JOKER,
FOOL--

--THE JOKER
IS TRUMP!

EVERY-
THING
GOES
TO POT!

HE'S LOOKING FOR
MORE SECURE
FOOTING! IN SOME
WAYS, HE'S AS SANE
AS ANYBODY!

THE STORM BROODED FOR DAYS BEFORE BREAKING,
BUT NOW THERE'S NO HOLDING IT BACK!

GREAT SHEETS OF
WATER POUND
DOWN LIKE CRASHING
OCEAN WAVES--

--SMEARING THE SIGHT
OF SILVER ST. CLOUD AS
SHE FIGHTS TO PEER
UPWARD INTO THE STORM'S
FULL FURY--

SMEARING HER SIGHT-- BUT NEVER
COMPLETELY OBLITERATING
WHAT SHE SEES--

JOKER! YOU LUNATIC -- THERE'S NO
PLACE YOU CAN GO FROM HERE!

I CAN GO
OVER YOUR
DEAD BODY,
BATMAN!

LOVELY WEATHER
FOR FISH, ISN'T
IT? OR DID I
SAY THAT?

I WANT YOU TO HEAR ALL
MY BEST LINES BEFORE
YOU DO YOUR DIVE INTO
THE DAMP SPONGE!

HIS BADGE!
THE ACID--

A SUDDEN /
DESPERATE
LUNGE--

A ND THEN ALL
AT ONCE--



LONG MOMENTS LATER...

WARNING
STAY BACK
THANK YOU

NO SIGN OF ANYONE CRAWLING OUT OF
THE RIVER ANYWHERE ALONG HERE!
CAN HE REALLY BE GONE, AT LONG LAST?

I'VE THOUGHT THAT BEFORE,
AND BEEN WRONG!

WELL, HE'S
FINISHED
FOR NOW!

BATMAN--!

SILVER!

BATMAN--PLEASE!
DON'T SAY ANYTHING!

I HAVE SOMETHING
TO SAY TO YOU!

MAYBE I KNOW WHAT YOU
WANTED ME TO SAY THE
OTHER NIGHT--

--ABOUT
WHAT I'VE
LEARNED
OF YOU!

MAYBE I CAME
BACK HERE--TO
TELL YOU!

MAYBE
I--

--I EVEN
LOVE YOU!

SILVER--

BUT JUST NOW, I SAW THE
BATMAN IN ACTION! NOT AS
A NEWS ITEM ON TV-- NOT
AS A MYSTERIOUS HERO
I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRER--!

I SAW YOU--THE MAN
INSIDE! THE MAN I LOVE!

I SAW YOU FIGHTING WITH
A MADMAN, STRADDLING A
GIRDER IN THE BLINDING
LIGHTNING STORM!

I LOVE YOU--BUT I
COULDN'T LIVE WITH
THAT! NEVER KNOWING
WHAT EACH NIGHT
WOULD BRING!

NEVER KNOWING
WHEN YOUR LUCK
WILL RUN OUT!

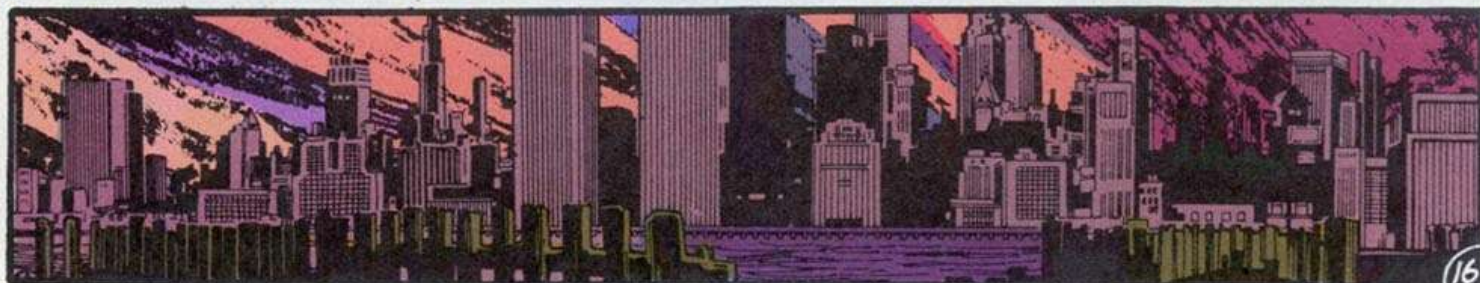
SILVER--

NO! IT'S OVER! I CAN'T
LET IT GO ON ANY LONGER!

WE HAVE TO
STOP BEFORE
WE CAN'T
STOP--BEFORE
WE CAN'T--

--HELP--

--OURSELVES!



IN THE DAWNING
OF A NEW DAY--



-- HE IS GONE!

fin



PRESENTING A BATMAN CLASSIC!

35¢

NO. 477

JUNE

30465

APPROVED
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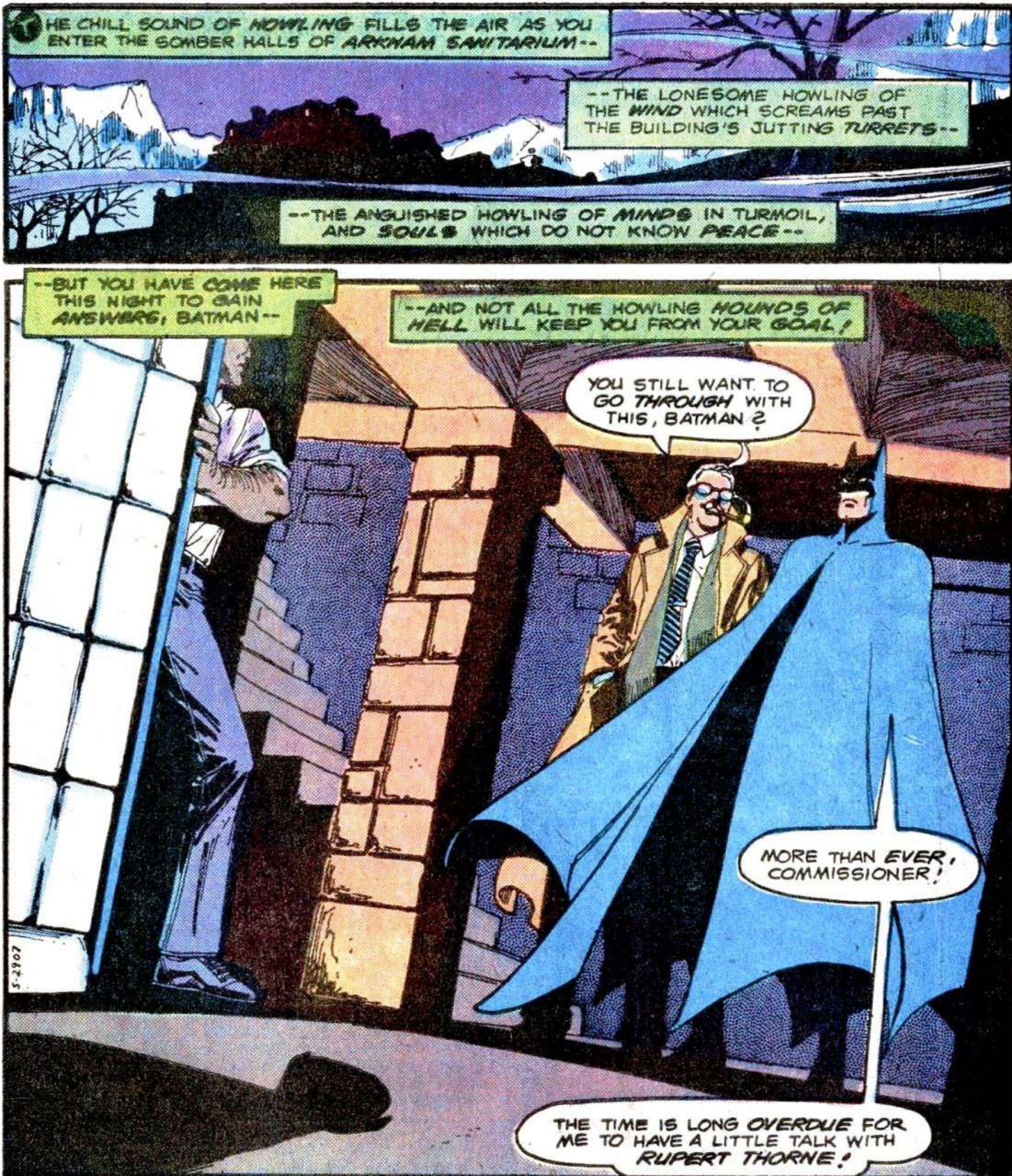
BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS

WHAT WAS THE
SINISTER SECRET
OF... "THE
HOUSE THAT
HAUNTED
BATMAN!"

ONLY ONE
MAN *KNEW*--
AND HE WOULD
KILL
TO PROTECT
IT!!



Ross
Giordano



ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...



CREATED BY BOB KANE

FRAMING SEQUENCE BY : LEY WEIN : WRITER * MARSHALL ROGERS & PICK GIORDANO : ARTISTS
GLYNIS WEIN : COLORIST * MILT SNAPINN : LETTERER * JULIUS SCHWARTZ : EDITOR

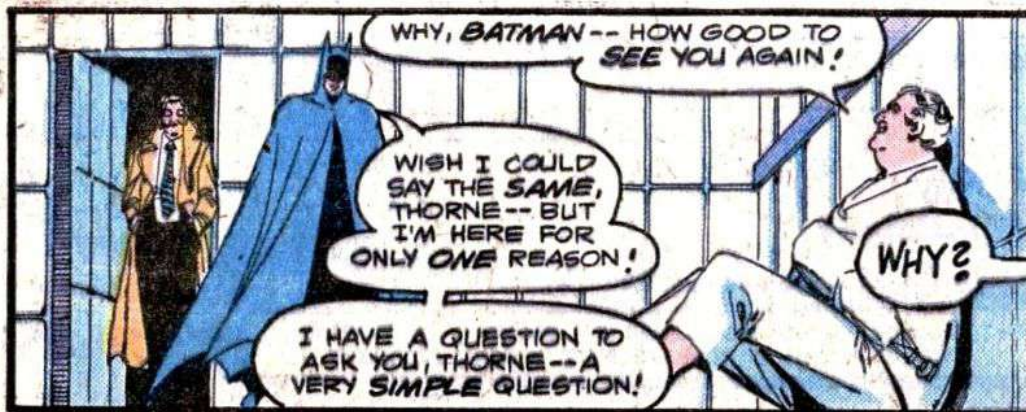
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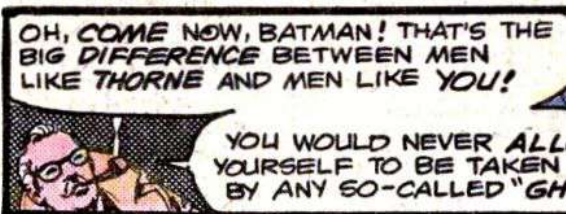
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* LAST ISSUE! JULIE



I WOULDN'T BE TOO CERTAIN
OF THAT IF I WERE YOU!

AND THE
CHILL WIND
HOWLING
THROUGH
THE WOOD
LAYS ALMOST
FORGOTTEN
MEMORIES
AT YOUR
FEET...

HERE YOU ARE, BATMAN! IT'S BEEN ALMOST
24 HOURS SINCE ROBIN DISAPPEARED FROM
HUDSON UNIVERSITY AND YOU TOOK TO THE TRAIL--
THE TRAIL THAT FINALLY LED YOU HERE... TO THIS
DUSTY OLD MANSION ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM
CITY... TO THIS ROTTING REMNANT OF BETTER TIMES!

ONLY ONE
THING BOTHERS
YOU-- THIS
HOUSE WASN'T
HERE LAST
WEEK!

LISTEN BETWEEN THE
ECHOES, BATMAN... TO
THE PERSISTENT POUNDING
OF THE RAMPANT RAIN THAT
RATTLES THE BROKEN
GLASS... TO THE HOWLING
OF THE COLD NIGHT WIND
AS IT DIES, SCREAMING IN
THE TREES...

ROBIN... ROBIN...!
ROBIN... ROBIN...!

WHO...?!

S-2906

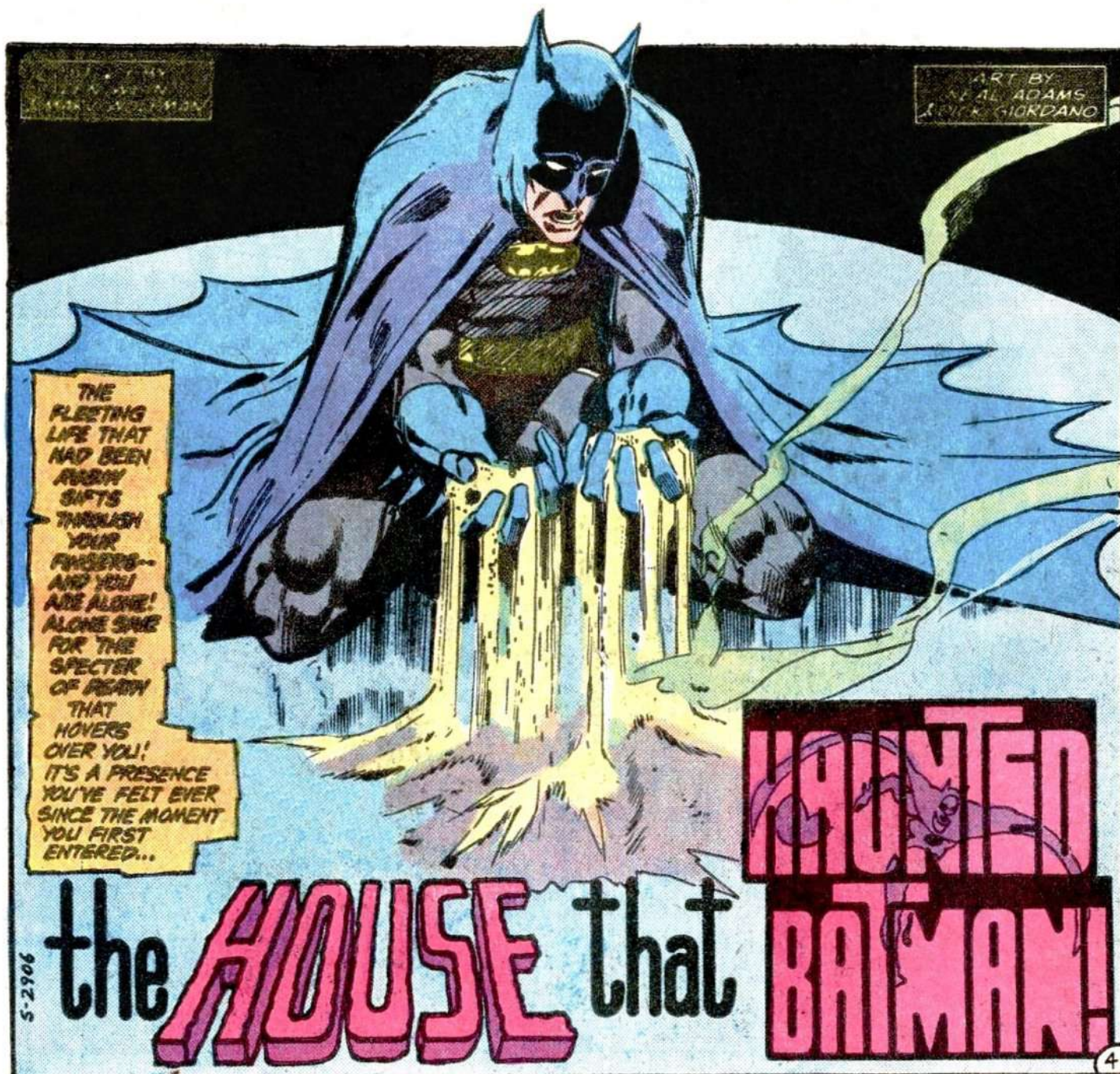
...TO THE CHAOTIC CRACKLE
OF THE LIGHTNING THAT
REVEALS...

ROBIN!!

BUT SOMETHING'S NOT
RIGHT, BATMAN! YOU MOVE
HESITANTLY TOWARDS THE
DRIPPING FIGURE AND...

ROBIN!...
WHAT'S
WRONG?

OH, MY
GOD...
NO!



DO YOU HEAR IT...
THAT TERRIFIED, PLEADING
SCREAM? IT'S COMING
FROM SOMEWHERE UPSTAIRS!
HURRY, BATMAN, HURRY!

THAT'S RIGHT--BEHIND
THAT DOOR! OPEN IT!

BATS!!
THOUSANDS OF...
ARRGGHH!

THAT DESPERATE
SCREAM! EVEN
ABOVE THE DEAF-
ENING ROAR OF
BEATING WINGS, YOU
CAN HEAR THAT
URGENT CRY FOR
HELP!

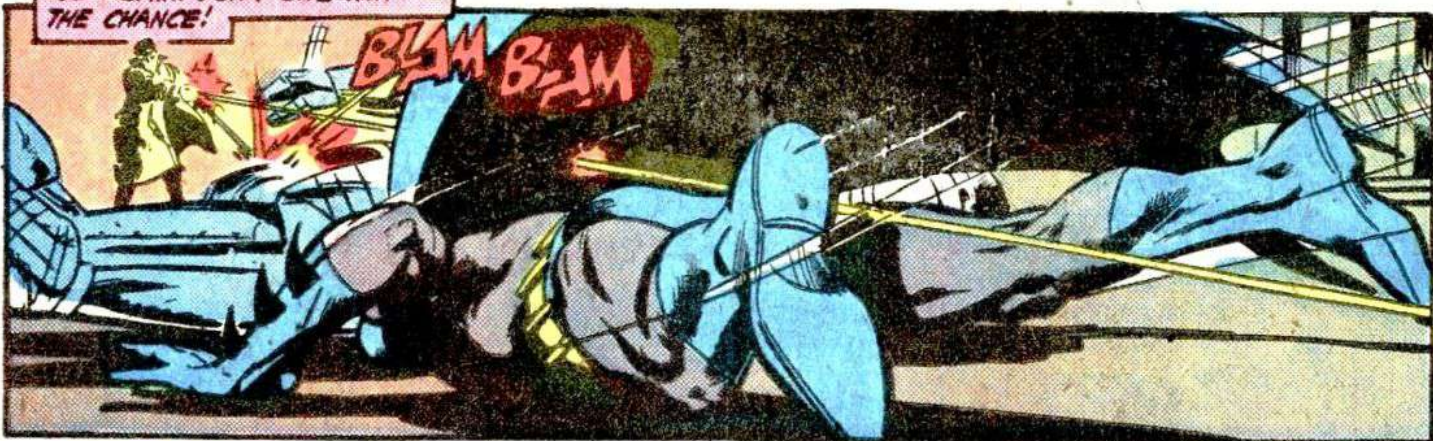
THE ROOM STANDS EMPTY NOW!
COBWEBS THAT HAVE HUNG UNDISTURBED FOR
YEARS NOW LITTER THE CRUMBLING CARPETING! ANTIQUE FURNITURE LIES
OVERTURNED, SCATTERED MEANINGLESSLY ABOUT THE ROOM! NOTHING
REMAINS STANDING, SAVE FOR...

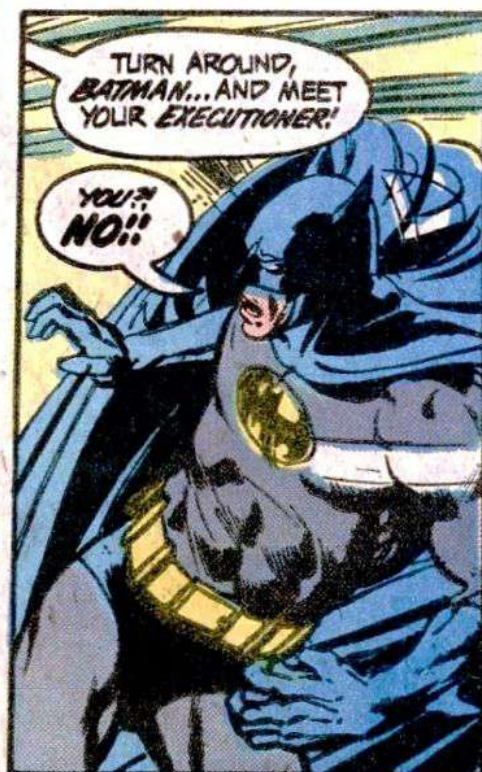
A GRAMOPHONE?
HOW IN THE WORLD...?

THAT'S RIGHT, BATMAN--
THOSE SCREAMS ARE
COMING FROM THAT OLD-
TIME PHONOGRAPH! WHY
DON'T YOU TAKE OFF THE
RECORD AND STOP THEM...?

BUT STILL THE SCREAMS DON'T STOP!

BAM





THE NEXT INCREDIBLE MOMENT...



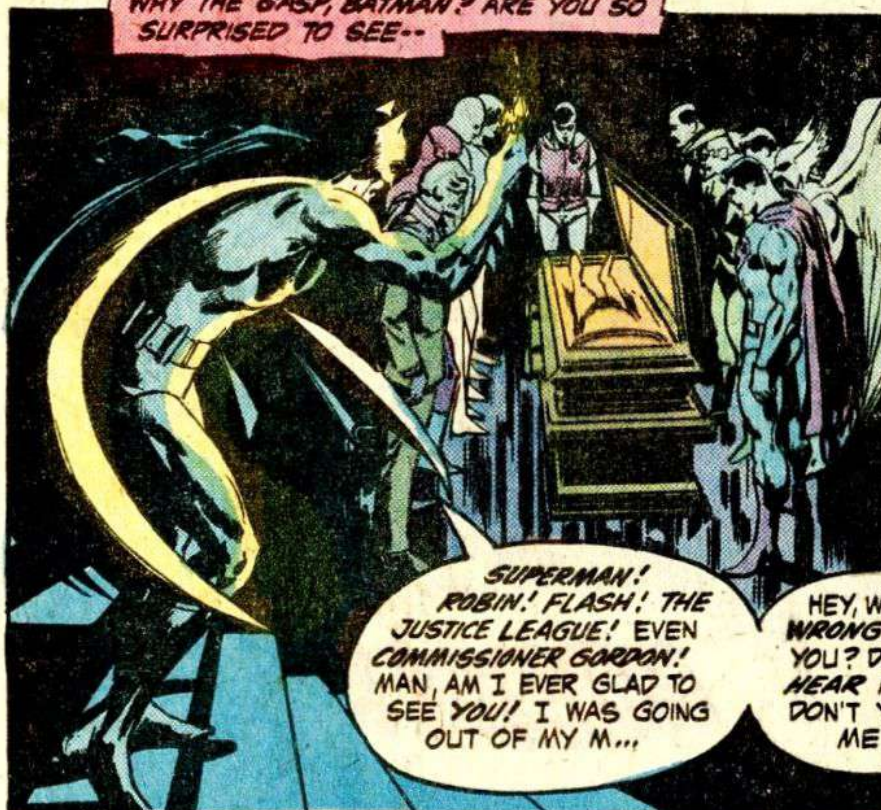
WHERE ARE YOU NOW, BATMAN? GO AHEAD-- TRY TO PIERCE THE SHROUDING BLACKNESS! YOU CAN'T SEE? WHY NOT TAKE OUT YOUR FLASHLIGHT?



WHAT NOW, BATMAN? NO FLASHLIGHT? INSTEAD YOU'VE FOUND...



WHY THE GASP, BATMAN? ARE YOU SO SURPRISED TO SEE--



HE WAS A GOOD MAN... A BRAVE MAN! ALL THE WORLD SHALL MOURN BATMAN'S PASSING...

M-MY PASSING? BUT I'M ALIVE-- ALIVE! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING



I WORKED WITH HIM...I LEARNED FROM HIM...I CALLED HIM MY FRIEND--BUT...

BUT IT WASN'T TRUE! HE WAS A FRAUD--A HYPOCRITE--A DISGRACE TO THE LAW HE VOWED TO UP-HOLD!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I'VE ALWAYS BEEN YOUR FRIEND!



YOU'RE RIGHT! THE SUPERMAN-BATMAN TEAM... HA! WHAT A JOKE! I DID ALL THE WORK AND THAT CAPED COWMAN TOOK ALL THE CREDIT!

THAT'S A LIE! I NEVER DID THAT-- NEVER!

WAIT A SECOND! OF COURSE! I'M DREAMING-- THIS IS NOT REALLY HAPPENING... IT'S A TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE!



HE LOCKED ME AWAY--NEVER, LET ME SHARE THE SPOT-LIGHT! THAT'S WHY I LEFT HIM! I-- HATED HIM!

NO! I WON'T LISTEN! YOU'RE JUST A DREAM! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SHUT MY EYES TO WIPE YOU OUT!



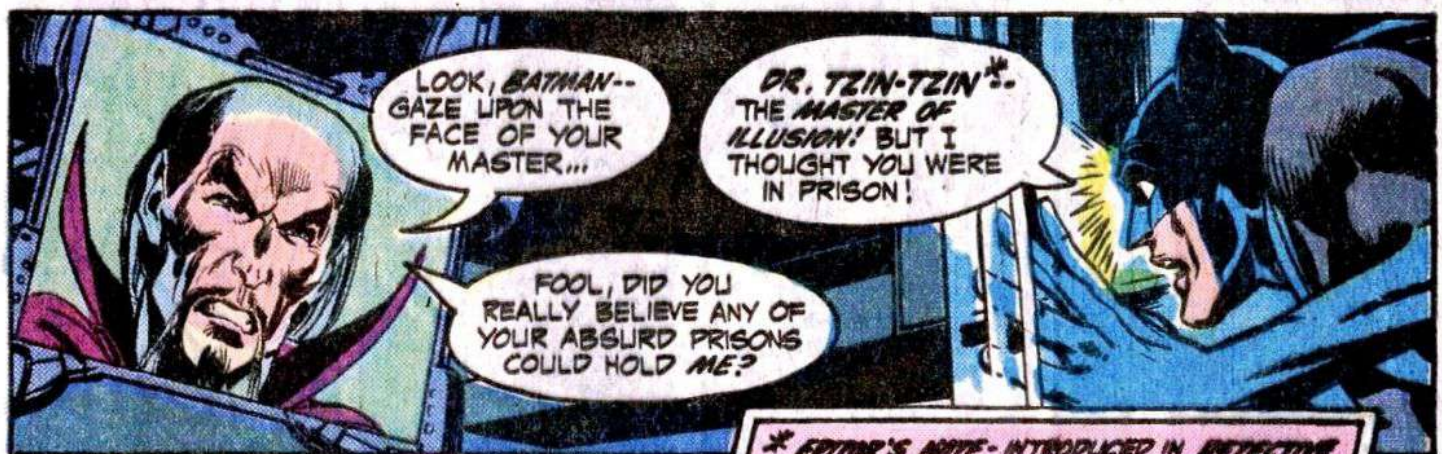
NOW THAT BATMAN'S DEAD, I'M GOING TO BE THE BOSS--ME! AND THE FIRST THING I'M GONNA DO IS REVEAL HIS SECRET IDENTITY! IT'S...

NO! YOU CAN'T! I'M NOT DEAD! I'M AS ALIVE AS YOU--

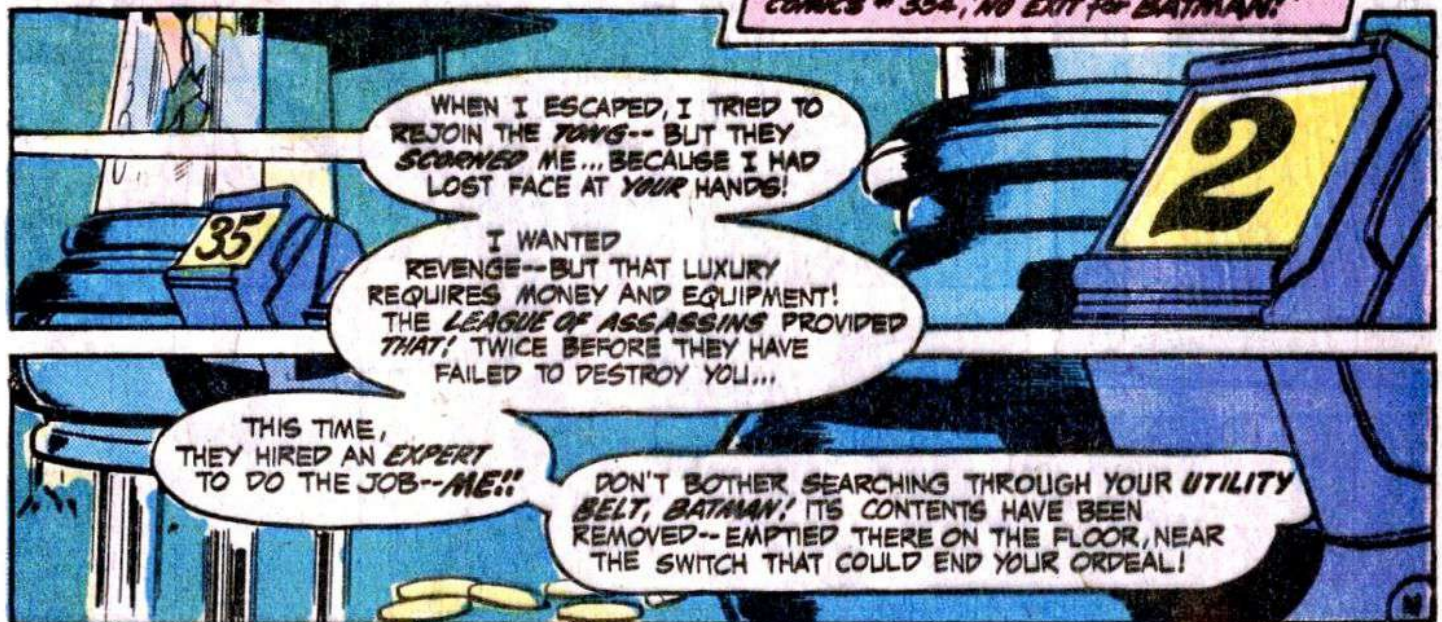


THE MATCH... IT DIED OUT!



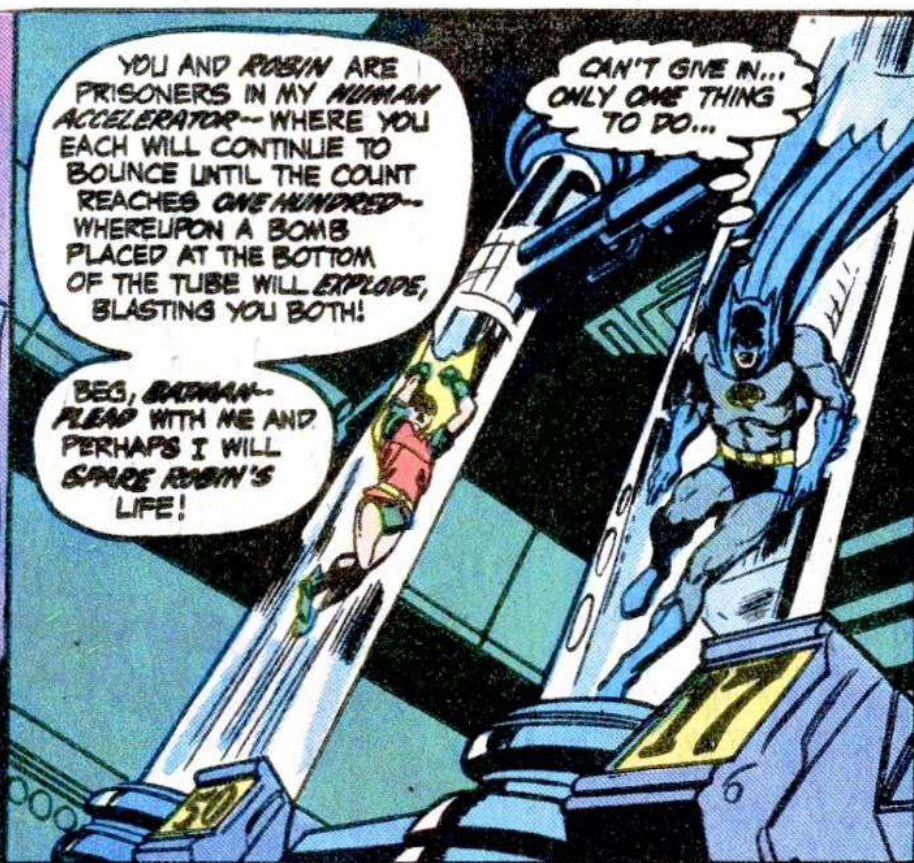


* EDITOR'S NOTE - INTRODUCED IN DETECTIVE COMICS # 354, "NO EXIT FOR BATMAN!"





YOU SHOULD FEEL HONORED, BATMAN! I PREPARED THIS HOUSE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU! EVERYTHING IN IT WAS DESIGNED TO WEAKEN YOUR WILL--TO DRIVE YOU TO THE **BREAKING POINT!**



YOU AND **ROBIN** ARE PRISONERS IN MY **HUMAN ACCELERATOR**--WHERE YOU EACH WILL CONTINUE TO BOUNCE UNTIL THE COUNT REACHES **ONE HUNDRED**--WHEREUPON A BOMB PLACED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TUBE WILL **EXPLODE**, BLASTING YOU BOTH!

CAN'T GIVE IN... ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

BEG, **BATMAN**--PLEAD WITH ME AND PERHAPS I WILL **SPARE ROBIN'S** LIFE!



EVERYTIME I STRIKE THE TOP OF THIS TUBE, THE COUNT INCREASES! BY SPEEDING UP MY MOTION, I CAN OVERTAKE **ROBIN'S** COUNT!



BATMAN! WHAT ARE YOU **DOING?** DON'T YOU REALIZE YOU ARE HASTENING YOUR OWN **DOOM?**

BEG MY FORGIVENESS... THAT'S **ROBIN'S** ONLY HOPE! BEG, YOU BLASTED FOOL--**BEG!!**



TOO LATE! YOU'VE...





THAT ~~IDOT~~...
CHOOSING SUICIDE
TO SUBMISSION!
HIS WORTHLESS ACT
OF BRAVADO SHALL
COST HIS YOUNG
COMPANION'S LIFE!



DON'T BET
ANY YEN ON THAT,
TZIN-TZIN!

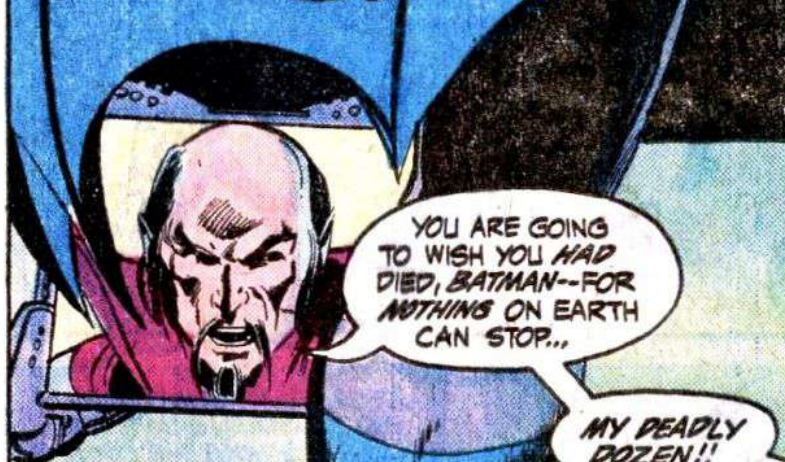
B-BUT YOU'RE
DEAD... YOU
HAVE TO BE!!

CLUNG



WRONG, TZIN-TZIN!
I MANAGED TO WEDGE MYSELF
AGAINST THE TOP OF THE TUBE
AT THE CREST OF MY FINAL
BOUNCE--THEN THREW MY
UTILITY BELT DOWN, SETTING
OFF THE EXPLOSION!

AND, HIDDEN BY
THE SMOKE, I SOMER-
SAULTED DOWN OUT
OF HARM'S WAY!

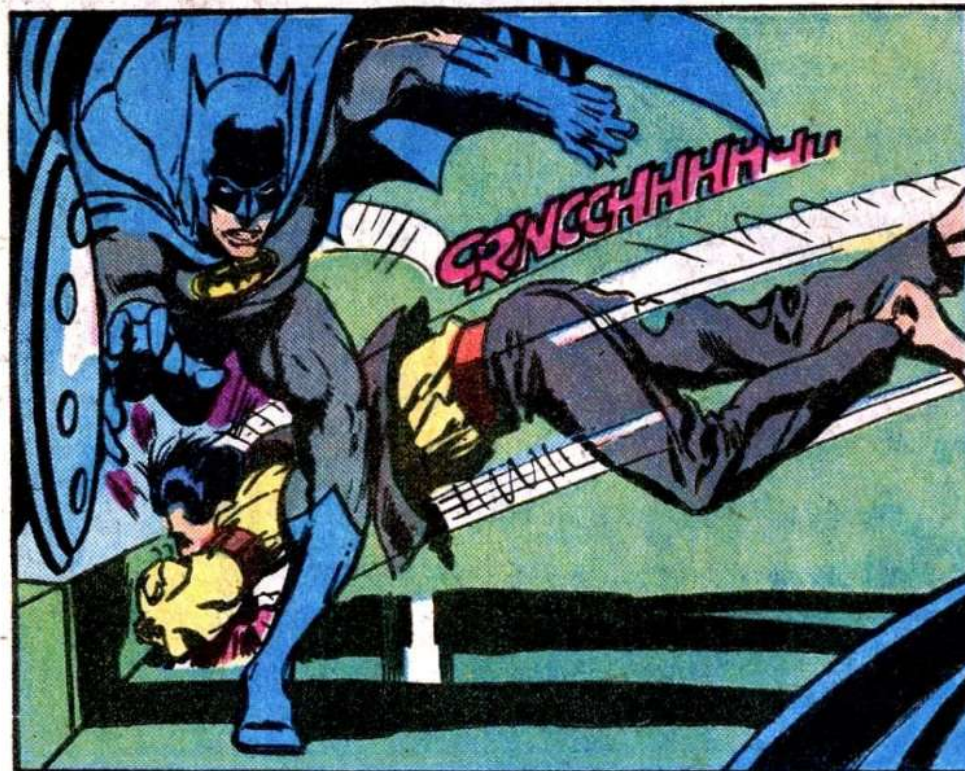


YOU ARE GOING
TO WISH YOU HAD
DIED, BATMAN--FOR
NOTHING ON EARTH
CAN STOP...

MY DEADLY
DOZEN!!

THE GIANT, FONG WU,
ALONE CAN CRUSH
THE LIFE FROM
YOUR BODY... SLOWLY...
PAINFULLY...





YOUR EYES BURN WITH A SAVAGERY THEY HAVE NEVER SHOWN BEFORE, AS...

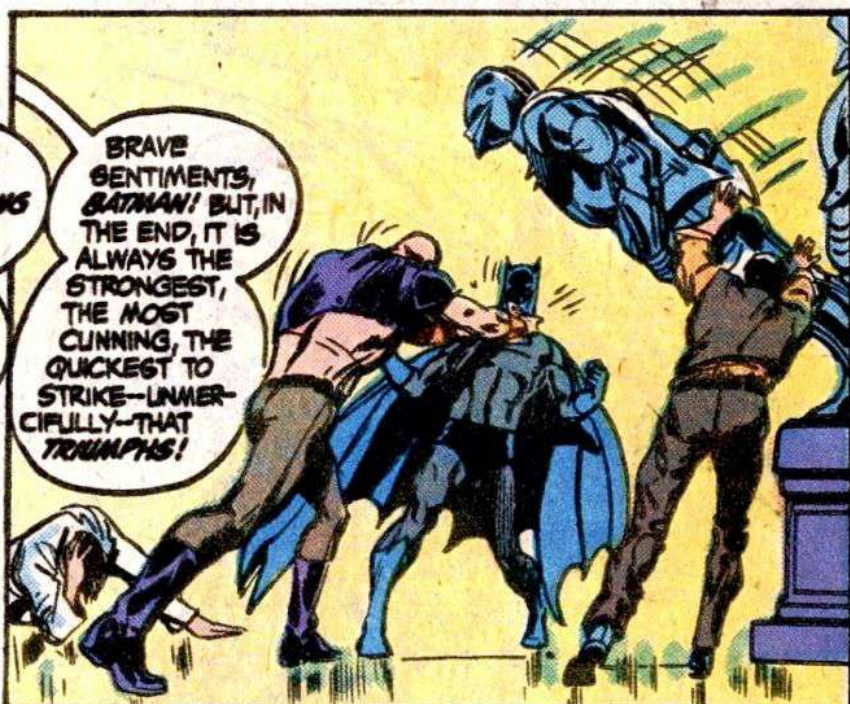
WHEN I'VE FINISHED WITH
YOUR GOONS, TZIN-TZIN,
I'M COMING AFTER YOU--

--NO MATTER
WHERE YOU
TRY TO
HIDE!

YOU'RE MAD,
BATMAN--I...



MAD? YOU'RE
DARNED RIGHT,
I'M MAD... *FIGHTING*
MAD! THE WAY I
AM WHENEVER
SOME TWO-BIT
PUNK LIKE YOU
TRIES TO SET
HIMSELF UP AS
A TIN-PLATED
GOD!



BRAVE
SENTIMENTS,
BATMAN! BUT, IN
THE END, IT IS
ALWAYS THE
STRONGEST,
THE MOST
CUNNING, THE
QUICKEST TO
STRIKE--UNMER-
CITUALLY--THAT
TRUMPHS!



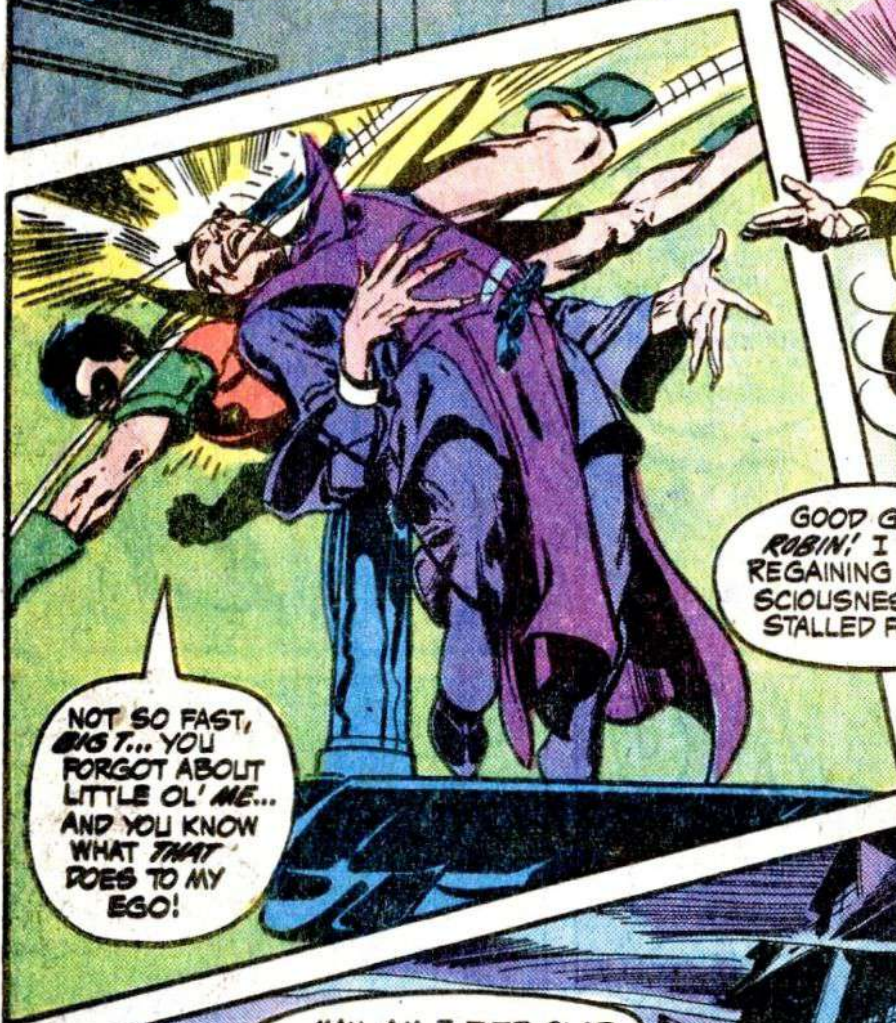
WHAT DO YOU
HAVE TO SAY
NOW, TZIN-
TZIN?



I BEG TO DIFFER
WITH YOU, *BATMAN!*
IT'S--WHAT DO YOU
HAVE TO SAY NOW!



YOU ARE A FLY IN THE OINTMENT, *BATHMAN*--A THORN IN MY SIDE--EASILY DEALT WITH! THERE SHALL BE NO MORE TRAPS--NO MORE ILLUSIONS! I SHALL END IT HERE... QUICKLY... CLEANLY... WITH A BULLET!



NOT SO FAST, *BIG T*... YOU FORGOT ABOUT LITTLE OL' ME... AND YOU KNOW WHAT *THAT* DOES TO MY EGO!



GOOD GOING, *ROBIN*! I SAW YOU REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS SO I STALLED FOR TIME!



MAN, AM I EVER GLAD TO GET OUT OF *THAT* PLACE... IT GAVE ME THE CREEPS!



WHAT...? LAUGHTER-
COMING FROM
THE HOUSE!

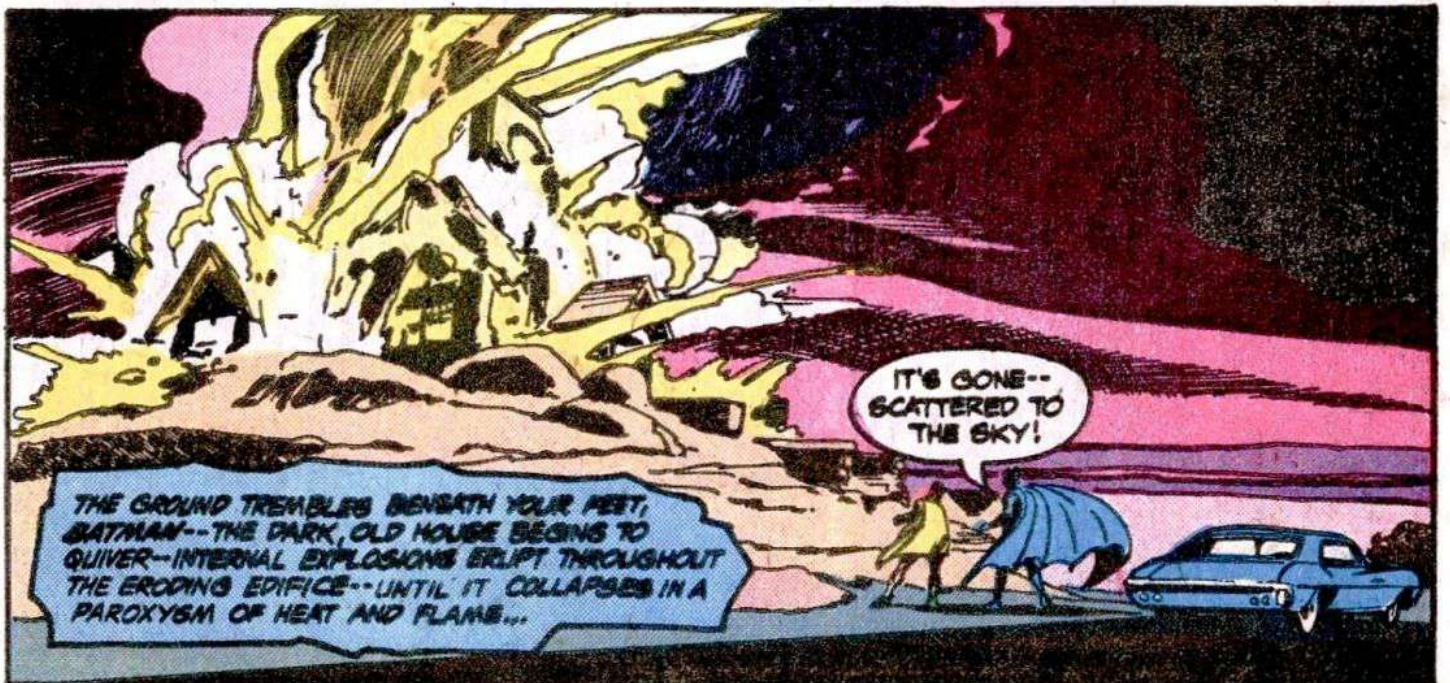


TZIN-TZIN!?

BUT IT CAN'T
BE... HE'S HERE
WITH US!



GONE! HE GOT
AWAY WHILE WE
WERE DISTRACTED!



THE GROUND TREMBLES BENEATH YOUR FEET,
BATMAN--THE DARK, OLD HOUSE BEGINS TO
QUIVER--INTERNAL EXPLOSIONS ERLIFT THROUGHOUT
THE ERDING EDIFICE--UNTIL IT COLLAPSES IN A
PAROXYSM OF HEAT AND FLAME...

IT'S GONE--
SCATTERED TO
THE SKY!



THE FIRST BREEZE OF MORNING
WHISTLES ACROSS THE HILL--
SWEEPING AWAY THE EBONY
MEMORIES THAT FILLED THE NIGHT
BEFORE! THE BATMOBILE
ROARS QUIETLY AWAY--AND
IS LOST IN THE FIRST
MISTS OF DAWN...



...EVEN AS THE BITTER
MEMORIES FADE ONCE
MORE... AND ARE GONE!

BATMAN?

BATMAN!

EH?



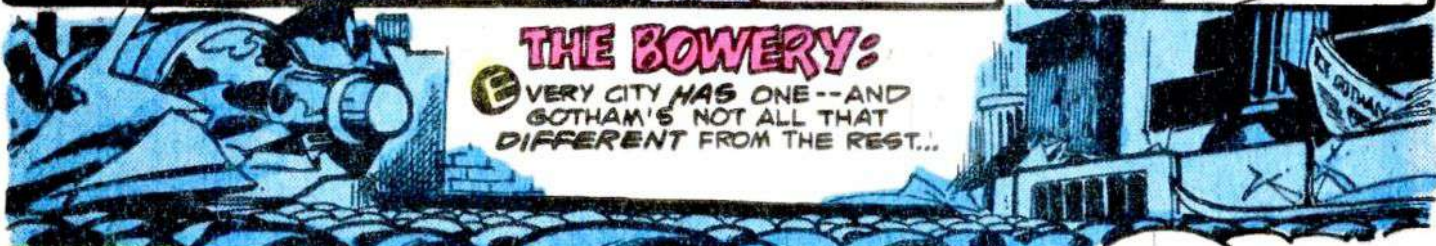
WELCOME BACK... OLD FRIEND!
YOU HAD ME WORRIED FOR
A MOMENT THERE!

WERE YOU THINKING
OF SOMETHING
IMPORTANT?

IMPORTANT,
COMMISSIONER?
NO... NOT REALLY!



NOW WHAT SAY WE GET
OUT OF HERE?



THE BOWERY:

EVERY CITY HAS ONE--AND
GOTHAM'S NOT ALL THAT
DIFFERENT FROM THE REST...



...RECEIPT,
OF COURSE,
FOR THIS!

HEY...
WHAZZAT?

ON...GOT ME
A LI'L BIT'A
COMPANY,
HUH?



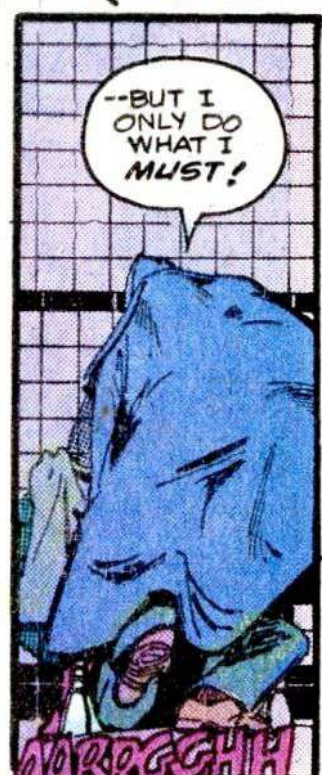
HERE YA
GO, PAL!
WANNA
JOIN ME
IN A LI'L
SWIG'A...

ULP.



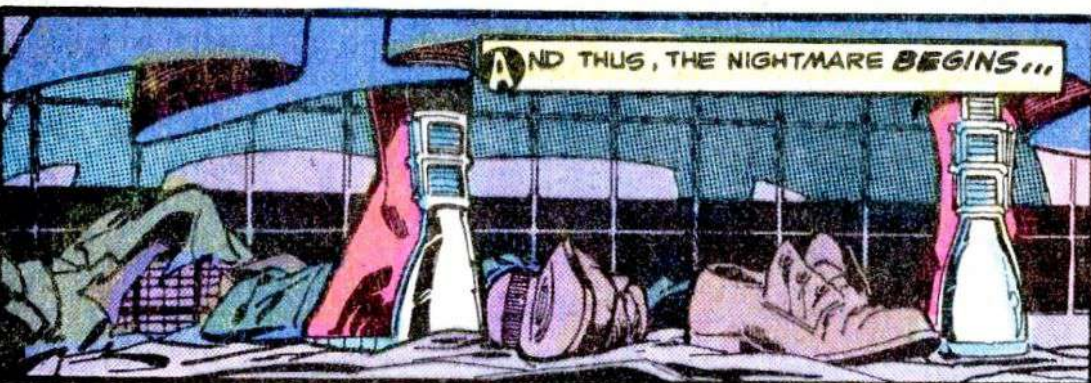
HEY, WHA... WHADDAYA
GONNA DO TO ME?

FORGIVE
ME, MY
FRIEND--



--BUT I
ONLY DO
WHAT I
MUST!

WARRGCHH



AND THUS, THE NIGHTMARE BEGINS...

NEXT ISSUE:
THE DARKNIGHT
DETECTIVE FACES
THE MOST SOUL-
CHILLING ADVERSARY
EVER! BE HERE FOR...
"The **COMING** of
CLAYFACE III!"
WE PROMISE YOU
WON'T REGRET IT!
ON SALE THE LAST
WEEK OF APRIL!



NO. 478 AUG 30465 35¢

BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS

CLAYFACE IS BACK!

APPROVED
BY THE
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AND
THIS GIRL
WAS HIS
*FIRST
VICTIM!*

YOU,
BATMAN,
WILL BE
HIS
NEXT!!



IN ALMOST LEGENDARY FIGURE, THE BATMAN PROWLs THROUGH THE NIGHT, PREYING UPON THE CRIMINAL PARASITES LIKE THE WINGED CREATURE WHOSE NAME HE HAS ADOPTED!

THE
COMING
OF...

CLAYFACE III!

IT HAD SEEMED AN EASY ENOUGH HEIST AT FIRST, RIPPING OFF THE GOTHAM AQUARIUM FOR A TANKFUL OF PRICELESS EXOTIC FISH!

BUT THEN, ONE OF THE SHADOWS STREWN ABOUT THE DARKNESS DETACHED ITSELF FROM THE REST--

--AND THE NIGHT
TURNED
INTO
NIGHTMARE!

CRIPES--
NO!
IT CAN'T BE--
HIM!

BUT IT IS,
WHACKO!
WE BEEN
CAUGHT
WET-HANDED--

--BY
THE
BATMAN!!

LEN WEIN
WRITER
MARSHALL ROGERS
AND
DICK GIORDANO
ARTISTS
BEN ODA
LETTERER
MARSHALL ROGERS
COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ
EDITOR





YOU PICKED A BAD NIGHT TO TANGLE WITH ME, LITTLE MAN...



...A REAL BAD NIGHT!



THIS MORNING, SOMEONE WHO WAS VERY PRECIOUS TO ME WALKED OUT OF MY LIFE FOREVER*--

--AND TONIGHT I'M HURTING, DEEP DOWN IN MY SOUL WHERE THERE'S NO WAY TO EASE THE PAIN!

*SPECIFICALLY, SILVER ST. CLOUD IN 'TEC #476!
--JULIE



BUT IT'S PAIN YOU'RE GOING TO SHARE WITH ME, PUNKS!

IT'S PAIN YOU DESERVE!

BECAUSE IT'S SCUM LIKE YOU THAT COST ME THE WOMAN I LOVE!



DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, PUNK?

OH... NO.

SMACK

IT'S...

SWACK

...MISERABLE...

SMACK

...SCUM...

...LIKE...

OKAY-- HOLD IT!!



AN UNCOMMON *EMPTYNESS* IN THE PIT OF HIS STOMACH, THE BATMAN SWINGS AWAY INTO THE DARKNESS, THINKING HIS WORK FOR THE NIGHT IS FINISHED!



HE IS WRONG!

FOR EVEN NOW, A BIZARRELY-GARBED PROWLER LUMBERS ALONG THE SHADOWED CORRIDORS OF GOTHAM CITY'S S.T.A.R.* LABORATORY!



A COMPLEX MECHANISM TUCKED UNDER HIS ARM, HE ALSO THINKS HIS WORK FOR THE NIGHT IS FINISHED--

*SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH.
-- JULIE

--AND, REGRETTABLY, HE ALSO IS WRONG!



OKAY, MISTER--HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!

CLICK



NOT WHEN MY VERY LIFE DEPENDS ON... NO!!

FOOL! ONE OF YOUR WILD SHOTS HAS SHATTERED THE MECHANISM!

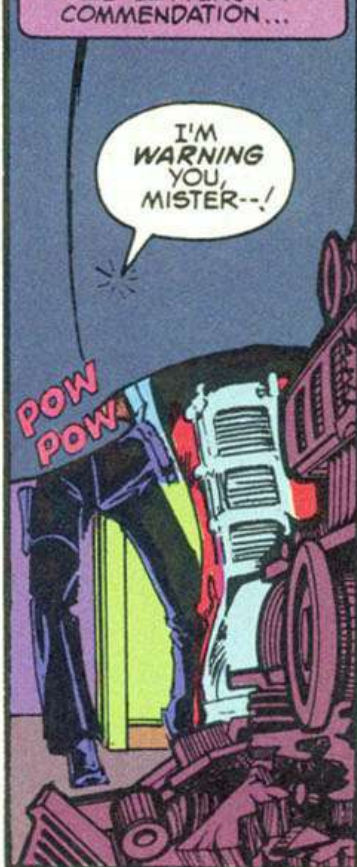
POW
POW
POW

HENRY MATLOCK HAS BEEN A NIGHT WATCHMAN AT THIS FACILITY FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS...



NO! K-KEEP AWAY FROM ME--!

FOR THE TWENTY YEARS BEFORE THAT, HE WAS ONE OF GOTHAM'S FINEST, RECEIVING THREE LETTERS OF COMMENDATION...



I'M WARNING YOU, MISTER--!



BUT IN ALL HIS YEARS BEHIND A BADGE, HE HAS NEVER SEEN A MAN WHO CAN SHED BULLETS LIKE A TIN ROOF SHEDS RAIN...

NEVER UNTIL NOW, THAT IS--



--AND IT MAY WELL BE THE LAST THING HE EVER SEES!



THE WAYNE FOUNDATION STANDS IN THE CENTER OF GOTHAM LIKE SOME IVORY TOWER OF OLD--

--CROWNED WITH A WELL-APPOINTED PENTHOUSE WHICH SERVES AS HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR ITS MULTI-MILLIONAIRE MASTER!

THOSE WHO HAVE HAPPENED TO CALL BRUCE WAYNE TONIGHT HAVE FOUND HIM OUT FOR THE EVENING--

--AS ALWAYS!

BUT NOW, CONSCIENCE-RACKED AND WEARY, GOTHAM'S MOST FAMOUS MAN-ABOUT-TOWN RETURNS FROM HIS EVENING'S ACTIVITIES--

--AND THE TASTE THAT LINGERS IN HIS MOUTH IS BITTERLY...

SOUR!

BLAST IT--IT'S ALL GOING SOUR!!

GOOD EVENING, MASTER BRUCE.

IS--IS SOMETHING WRONG, SIR?

ALFRED, THINGS COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG!

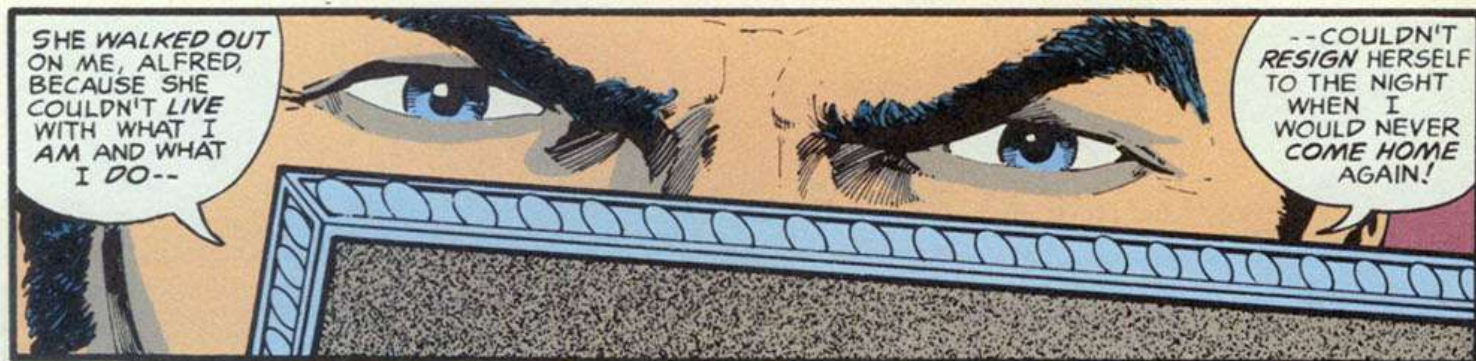
I LET TWO PUNKS I TANGLED WITH TONIGHT GET TO ME--

--AND THAT'S A LUXURY I CANNOT AFFORD!

I SEEM TO HAVE LOST MY OBJECTIVITY, ALFRED--

--WHEN I LOST SILVER!

To Bruce
Love you always
and all ways--
Silver



SHE WALKED OUT ON ME, ALFRED, BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T LIVE WITH WHAT I AM AND WHAT I DO--

-- COULDN'T RESIGN HERSELF TO THE NIGHT WHEN I WOULD NEVER COME HOME AGAIN!



THE BATMAN DROVE AN IMPENETRABLE WEDGE BETWEEN US, ALFRED!

THE BLASTED BATMAN SPLIT US APART!!



THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! YOU-- MY DEAR DEPARTED PARENTS! IF YOU HADN'T DIED, THERE WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ANY NEED FOR THE BATMAN!

I COULD HAVE LIVED A NORMAL LIFE LIKE ANY OTHER MAN! I COULD HAVE...

...COULD HAVE...



OH... MY ... GOD...



...FORGIVE ME.



I DON'T KNOW, ALFRED--MAYBE THERE'S A LOT OF TRUTH IN WHAT I'VE SAID!

MAYBE IT'S TIME I QUIT BEING THE BATMAN--FOREVER!!

IF SO, MASTER BRUCE...



...NOW IS THE TIME TO DECIDE!

AND IT IS A DECISION SWIFTLY MADE!



CITY IS A **LIVING ORGANISM**, AS **HEALTHY** OR AS **SICKLY** AS THE **SUM OF ITS PARTS!**

FATHER
KNICKERBOCKER
WAX MUSEUM

CONDEMNED

THE LOWER WEST SIDE OF **GOTHAM CITY**, FOR EXAMPLE, IS A **FESTERING SORE**; ROWS OF **VERMIN-RIDDEN TENEMENTS** IMPATIENTLY AWAITING THE **SURGEON'S KNIFE** OR THE **WRECKER'S BALL!**

NOW AND THEN, A FEW OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD **CHILDREN** WILL **SQUIRM** THROUGH A **GAP** IN THE **FENCE** WHICH SURROUNDS AN **ABANDONED WAX MUSEUM** THERE--

-- AND FOR A WHILE, THEY WILL **STAND** AND **MARVEL** AT THE **WAXEN WONDERS** WHICH WAIT **SILENTLY** BEYOND THE **SHATTERED WINDOWS!**

FOR THERE ARE **STORIES** WHISPERED FROM **EAR TO EAR** IN THE **SCHOOLYARD--**

BUT ONLY THE MOST **DARING** WILL EVER **REMAIN** AT THOSE **WINDOWS** FOR **LONG!**

-- **STORIES** OF **STRANGE VOICES** AND **UNINTELLIGIBLE SOUNDS** WHICH CAN BE **HEARD** AT **NIGHT**, **FILTERING UP** THROUGH THE **DARKNESS!**

THE **CHILDREN ASSUME**, QUITE **NATURALLY**, THAT THESE ARE THE **MUTTERINGS** OF THE **GHOSTS** WHICH DWELL WITHIN THESE **DUSTY HALLS--**

-- WHEN, IN **TRUTH**, THE **NOISES** SPEAK OF A **HORROR** FAR MORE **REAL** THAN ANY **CHILDISH MIND** COULD EVER **IMAGINE!**

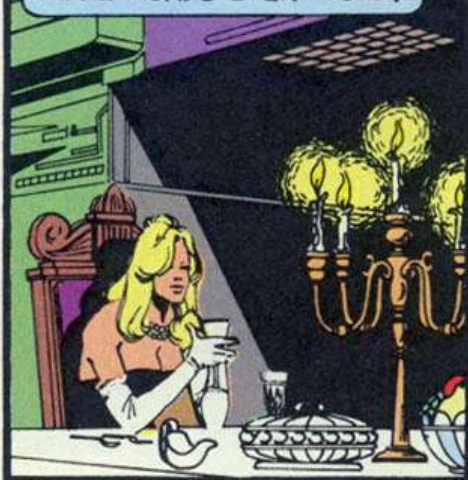
LISTEN **CLOSE--** AND PERHAPS YOU WILL **HEAR!**

YOU LOOK **RAVISHING** TONIGHT, MY DEAR **HELENA!**

TRULY, I THINK YOU GROW MORE **BEAUTIFUL** WITH EVERY **PASSING DAY!**

IF THE WOMAN CALLED HELENA IS FLATTERED BY HER GROTESQUE COMPANION'S COMPLIMENT, SHE DOES NOT REPLY--

--BUT THE SMILE WHICH TOUCHES THE CORNERS OF HER MOUTH SPEAKS FAR MORE ELOQUENTLY THAN MERE WORDS EVER COULD!

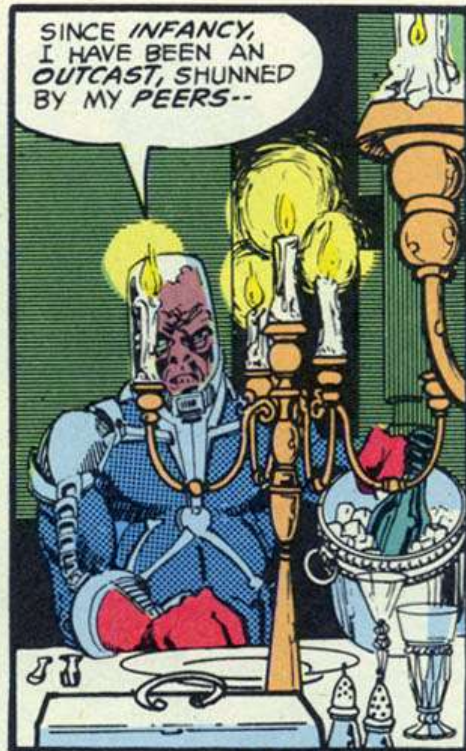


FINDING YOU, SWEET HELENA, HAS BEEN THE ONLY SAVING GRACE IN THE OTHERWISE MISERABLE LIFE OF PRESTON PAYNE!

YOU REALIZE THAT, DON'T YOU?



SINCE INFANCY, I HAVE BEEN AN OUTCAST, SHUNNED BY MY PEERS--



--AS IF MY PHYSICAL DEFORMITY WERE SOMEHOW OF MY OWN CHOOSING!



I WAS BORN AN ACROMEGALIC --VICTIM OF CHRONIC HYPERPITUITARISM WHICH HIDEOUSLY DISTORTED MY BODY!



"I COULD NOT CHANGE WHAT I WAS --AND DESPITE MY GREATEST EFFORTS, NEITHER COULD I FORGET IT!"



"MY CRUEL AND CALLOUS CLASSMATES SAW TO THAT!"

"I GREW UP FRIENDLESS, BUT NOT ALONE-- FOR I HAD MY BOOKS AND I HAD MY DREAMS..."



"...AND, FOR A TIME, THAT SEEMED TO BE ENOUGH!"

"THE GOOD LORD, IN HIS WISDOM, HAD SEEN FIT TO COMPENSATE FOR MY UGLINESS BY GRANTING ME AN EQUALLY ABNORMAL INTELLIGENCE!"



"I GRADUATED COLLEGE AT THE TOP OF MY CLASS, AND TOOK A JOB WITH S.T.A.R. LABORATORIES..."

"...ONLY TO FIND MY LEARNED CO-WORKERS WERE NO MORE SYMPATHETIC TO MY PLIGHT THAN MY SCHOOLMATES HAD BEEN YEARS BEFORE!"



"FINALLY, IN
DESPAIR, I
VISITED THE
FINEST
PLASTIC
SURGEONS--"

"--BUT THEIR
RESPONSE
WAS ALWAYS
THE SAME..."

I'M
SORRY...

... BUT
THERE'S...

... NOTHING
I...

... CAN
DO...

... FOR
YOU!

"HEARTBROKEN, I WAS WANDERING
AIMLESSLY ALONG THE STREET WHEN
I NOTICED THE HEADLINE..."

"HE SEEMED THE
ONE MAN ON EARTH
WHO MIGHT BE ABLE
TO HELP ME!"

BATMAN NABS CLAYFACE

"I'D HEARD OF CLAYFACE--
MATT HAGEN, ACTUALLY--
A CRIMINAL WITH THE UNIQUE
ABILITY TO MOLD HIS BODY
LIKE PUTTY!"

"I VISITED
HAGEN IN
PRISON--
BEGGED
HIM TO TELL
ME HIS
SECRETS..."

"...BUT THE MOST THAT I
COULD GET FROM HIM WAS
A SMALL SAMPLE OF
HIS BLOOD!"

"I WORKED
FEVERISHLY
TO ISOLATE
THE QUALITY
WHICH HAD
GIVEN
HAGEN HIS
MALLEABILITY--"

"--KNOWING THAT WHEN I
DID, I WOULD BE ABLE TO
PERFORM MY OWN PLASTIC
SURGERY!"

"I WOULD AT
LAST BECOME THE
MAN I HAD ALWAYS
DREAMT I COULD BE!"

"A SHIVER OF NERVOUS
ANTICIPATION RAN UP MY SPINE
AS I FINALLY INJECTED MYSELF
WITH THE ISOLATED EXTRACT--"

"--AND MOUTHED A SILENT PRAYER!"



FIRE COURSED THROUGH MY BODY, SWEET HELENA! I SCREAMED-- THEN COLLAPSED--!

FINALLY I AROSE-- PUT A HAND TO MY CHEEK-- AND FELT THE FLESH MOVE!

I HAD SUCCEEDED-- FAR BEYOND MY WILDEST IMAGININGS!



THAT NIGHT, IT WAS A NEW PRESTON PAYNE WHO WENT OUT ON THE TOWN--

-- A MAN UNAFRAID, WHO KNEW THE SOFT TOUCH AND THE SWEET SMILE OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS SORROWFUL LIFE!



"WE WERE STROLLING THROUGH THE PARK WHEN A PASSING COUPLE SUDDENLY TURNED AWAY FROM US IN SHOCK AND REVULSION!"

YOUR FACE! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?!

"APPARENTLY, THE CATABOLIC CHANGES WROUGHT BY THE EXTRACT WERE NOT YET COMPLETE!"

"THEN MY LOVELY COMPANION LOOKED AT ME--"

--AND SCREAMED!"



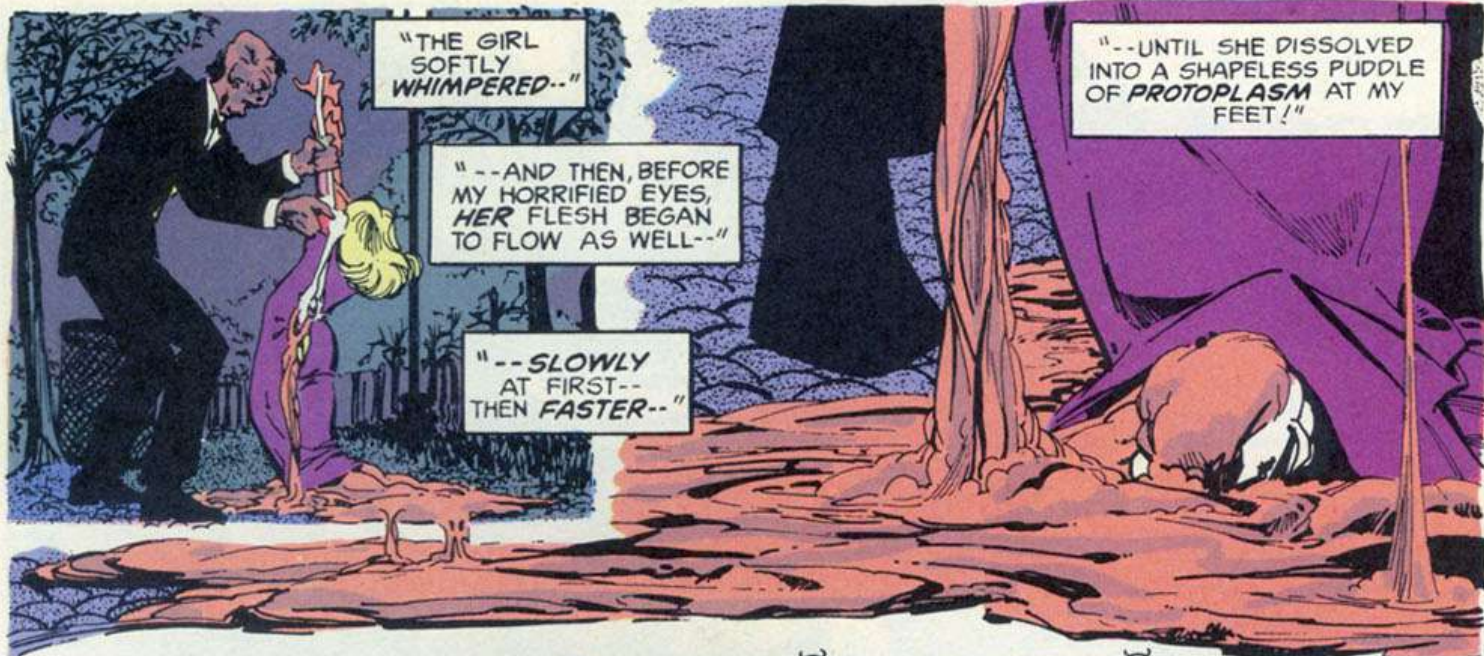
"PANIC-STRICKEN, MY DATE ATTEMPTED TO FLEE-- AS INSTINCTIVELY, I CLUTCHED AT HER ARM..."

"THE FLESH OF MY FACE HAD BEGUN TO RUN... LIKE WAX BEFORE A CANDLE... LIKE FLOWING CLAY!"



"...AND FELT THE AGONIZING FIRE FLOW FROM ME..."

"...INTO HER!"



"THE GIRL
SOFTLY
WHIMPERED--"

"--AND THEN, BEFORE
MY HORRIFIED EYES,
HER FLESH BEGAN
TO FLOW AS WELL--"

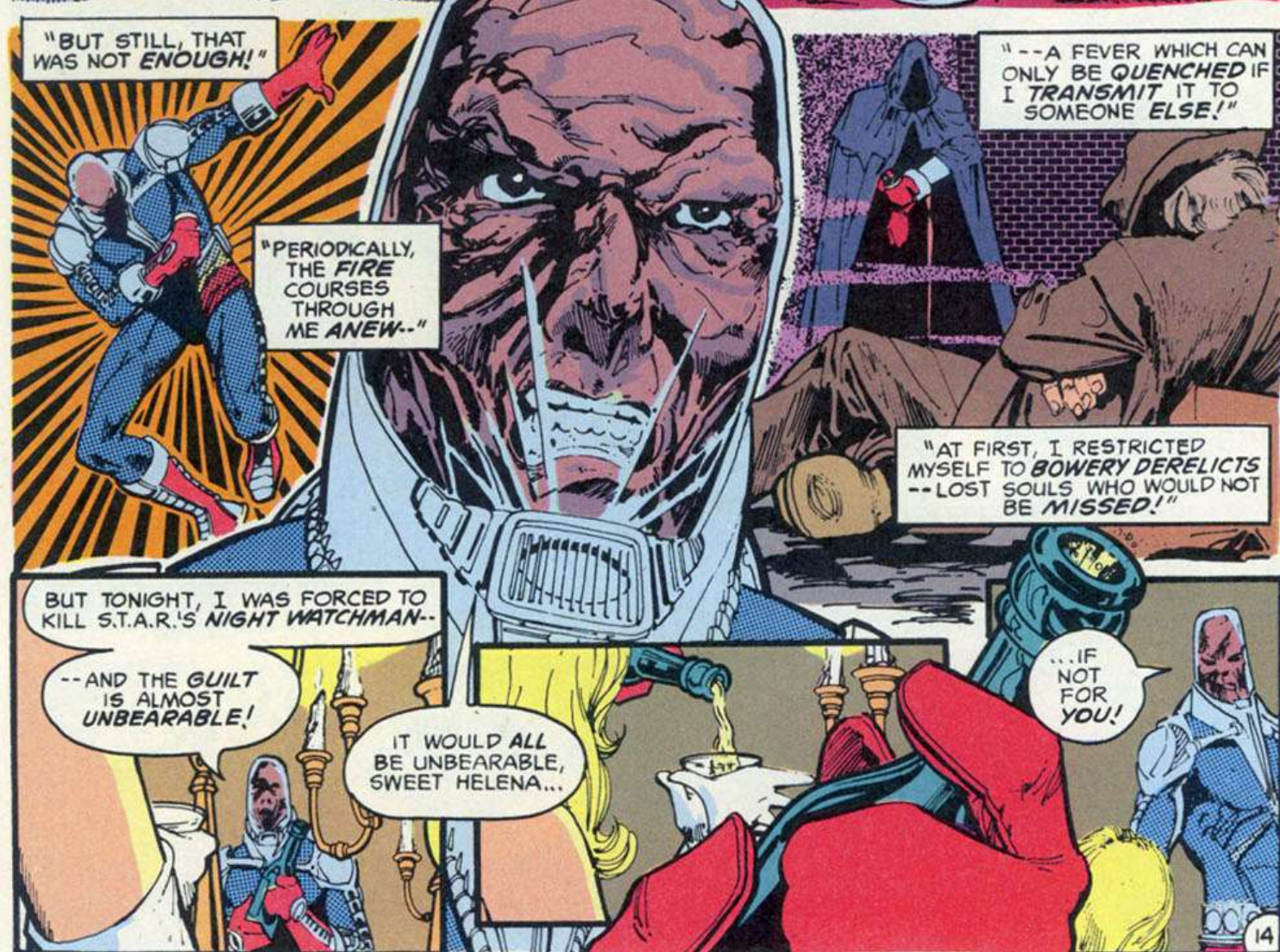
"--SLOWLY
AT FIRST--
THEN FASTER--"

"--UNTIL SHE DISSOLVED
INTO A SHAPELESS PUDDLE
OF PROTOPLASM AT MY
FEET!"



"WHATEVER THE EXTRACT HAD
DONE TO MY BODY, IT WAS
CONTAGIOUS--MORE DANGEROUS
TO OTHERS THAN TO MYSELF!"

"BEFORE I COULD
HOPE TO CURE MYSELF,
I WAS FORCED TO
CREATE THE
EXOSKELETON I
NOW WEAR--DESIGNED
TO CONTAIN MY
CONTAGION AND
SUPPORT MY
CLAY-LIKE FLESH!"



"BUT STILL, THAT
WAS NOT ENOUGH!"

"PERIODICALLY,
THE FIRE
COURSES
THROUGH
ME ANEW--"

"--A FEVER WHICH CAN
ONLY BE QUENCHED IF
I TRANSMIT IT TO
SOMEONE ELSE!"

"AT FIRST, I RESTRICTED
MYSELF TO BOWERY DERELICTS
--LOST SOULS WHO WOULD NOT
BE MISSED!"

BUT TONIGHT, I WAS FORCED TO
KILL S.T.A.R.'S NIGHT WATCHMAN--

--AND THE GUILT
IS ALMOST
UNBEARABLE!

IT WOULD ALL
BE UNBEARABLE,
SWEET HELENA...

...IF
NOT
FOR
YOU!



FINDING YOU
HERE WHEN I
COMMANDEERED
THIS OLD WAX
MUSEUM IS THE
ONLY THING WHICH
HAS THUS FAR
SAVED MY
SANITY!



WITHOUT YOU, SWEET HELENA ...
I WOULD SURELY HAVE GONE MAD!!

THE FOLLOWING EVENING:

DARKNESS COMES ALMOST RELUCTANTLY THIS NIGHT,
SPREADING SHADOWY FINGERS ACROSS THE WINDSWEEP
WOODLANDS BEYOND GOTHAM CITY LIKE A BLIND MAN
FEELING HIS WAY...



IT IS A 45-MINUTE DRIVE
FROM MIDTOWN GOTHAM TO
THIS PARTICULAR EXIT FROM
THE WILDERLANDS PARKWAY--



-- AN EXIT SELDOM
USED, SAVE BY
THE SEVERAL
HUNDRED
EMPLOYEES OF
THE STARHAVEN
EXPERIMENTAL
FACILITY LOCATED
HERE--

-- AND
TONIGHT,
BY ONE
OTHER!



NO
UNAUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL

AN ARMORED HAND FIRMLY GRIPS A REINFORCED STEEL DOOR AND,
SERVO-MOTORS HUMMING SHRILLY--



-- QUICKLY
OPENS IT!

CRACK

EVEN ON HIS MOST CREATIVE DAY, THOMAS ALVA EDISON COULD NEVER HAVE *BEGUN* TO CONCEIVE THE ELECTRONIC *WONDERLAND* WHICH AWAITS BEHIND THAT NOW-RUINED *DOOR*!

YET CONFIDENTLY, THE ARMOR-CLAD INTRUDER STRIDES THROUGH THIS MAZE OF SCIENTIFIC PARAPHERNALIA--

--FOR HE KNOWS *PRECISELY* WHAT HE IS *SEEKING*!

IT'S *HERE*--THE *TWIN* OF THE MECHANISM THAT NIGHT-WATCHMAN SO CLUMSILY *DESTROYED*!

WHICH MADE IT BETTER THAN EVEN MONEY THAT *YOU* WOULD BE HERE AS WELL... *EVENTUALLY*!

EH?

WHO--?!?

THE BATMAN!!

IF YOU'RE *SMART*, YOU'LL SURRENDER NOW!

I'D JUST LOVE TO DO THIS THE *HARD* WAY!

I HAVE NO *QUARREL* WITH YOU, MASKED MAN!

JUST ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS *MECHANISM* AND DEPART IN *PEACE*...

...AND THERE MAY YET BE HOPE FOR *BOTH* OF US!

NOT A *CHANCE*!

THE ONLY WAY YOU'RE LEAVING HERE, MISTER--IS THROUGH ME!!

THEN *SO* BE IT!

LET WHAT HAPPENS HERE NEXT BE ON *YOUR* HEAD!





MORE PAGES! MORE THRILLS! MORE MYSTERY!

50¢

44 PAGES
ALL-NEW
NO. 479

OCT.



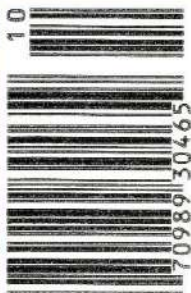
BATMAN'S DETECTIVE COMICS

WINGING HIS WAY INTO A
BRAND-NEW SERIES OF
HIGH-FLYING ADVENTURES!

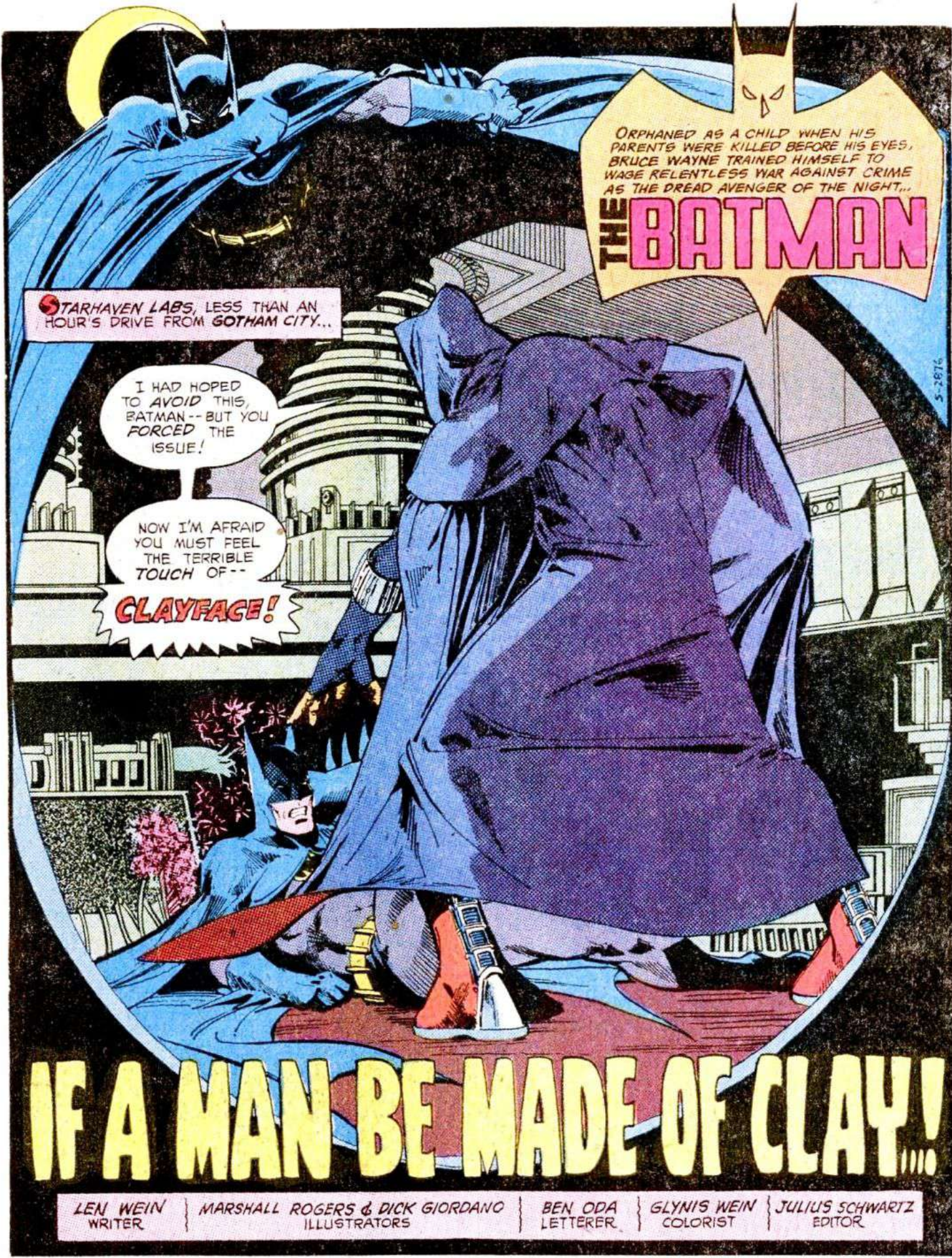
HAWKMAN

ROGERS
& GIORDANO

FEATURING
THE FULL-LENGTH FINALE
OF THE BATMAN'S BLAZING BATTLE WITH
CLAYFACE
AND HIS TOUCH OF DEATH!



70989 30465



ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

THE BATMAN

STARHAVEN LABS, LESS THAN AN HOUR'S DRIVE FROM GOTHAM CITY...

I HAD HOPED TO AVOID THIS, BATMAN-- BUT YOU FORCED THE ISSUE!

NOW I'M AFRAID YOU MUST FEEL THE TERRIBLE TOUCH OF--

CLAYFACE!

IF A MAN BE MADE OF CLAY...

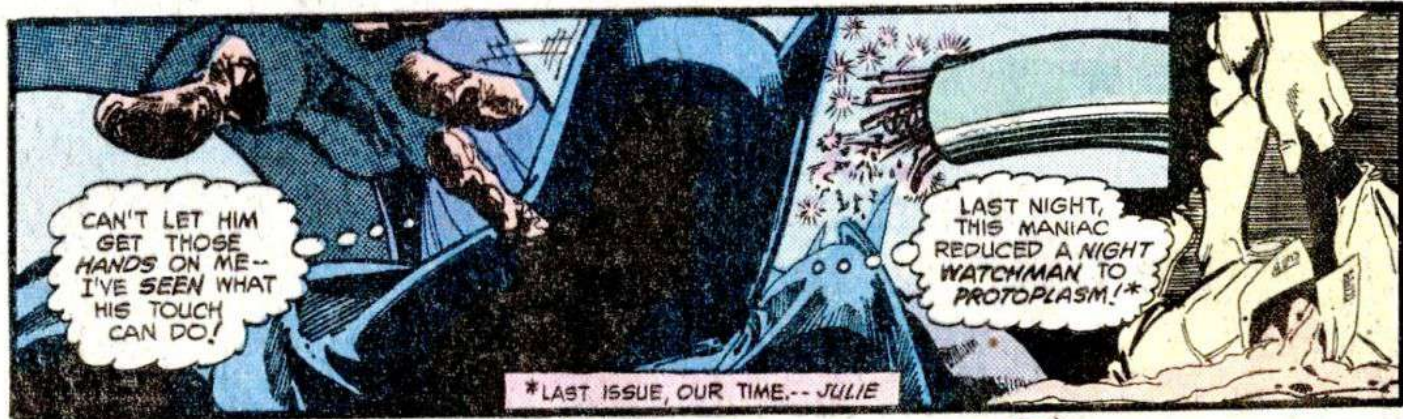
LEN WEIN WRITER	MARSHALL ROGERS & DICK GIORDANO ILLUSTRATORS	BEN ODA LETTERER	GLYNIS WEIN COLORIST	JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR
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THAT ELECTRIC JOLT DIDN'T SHORT-CIRCUIT CLAYFACE AS I PLANNED--

--BUT IT STILL STUNNED HIM LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO-- **THIS!!**



INCREDIBLE! THAT KICK COULD HAVE FLOORED A **BUFFALO**-- BUT CLAYFACE IS STILL ON HIS FEET!

I'LL HAVE TO TRY A DIFFERENT STRATEGY--



--LIKE THESE SMOKE-PELLETS FROM MY UTILITY BELT!

WHAT--?!?

Poof Poof

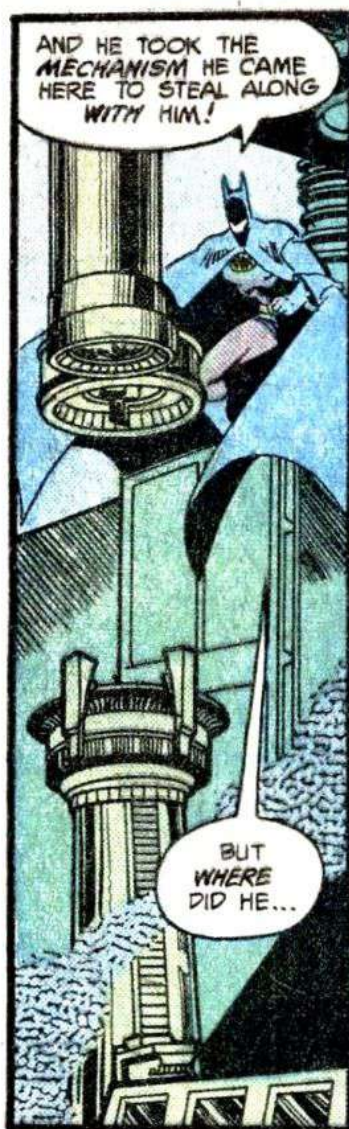
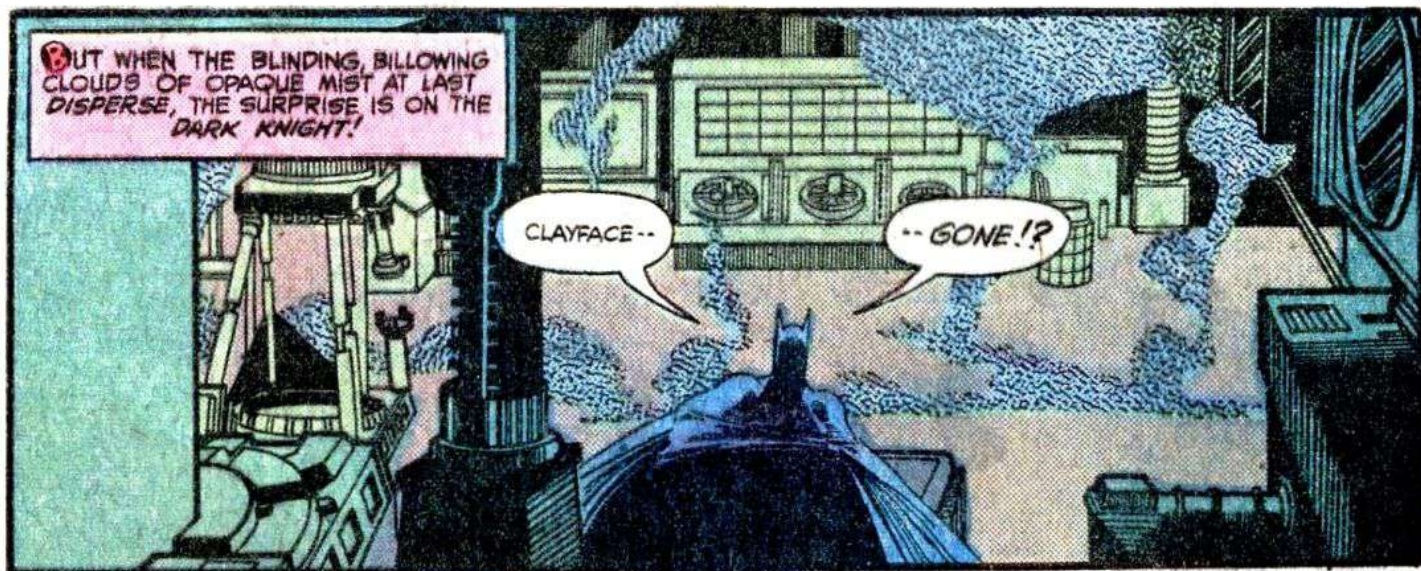


AND WHILE CLAYFACE IS **BLINDED**, I'LL HEAD FOR HIGHER GROUND!



UP HERE, THE ADVANTAGE IS MINE!

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS, I'LL BE ABLE TO SURPRISE THAT PUTTY-FACED FREAK WITH AN ATTACK FROM ABOVE!



AT THIS LATE HOUR, THE COUNTRY ROAD BACK TO GOTHAM IS A LONELY ONE--

--BUT RARELY MORE LONELY--
RARELY MORE FORLORN--
THAN IT SEEMS TONIGHT!

PAIN IS GROWING WORSE...
CAN HARDLY SEE STRAIGHT...

SHOULD HAVE
TOUCHED THE BATMAN...
WHILE I HAD THE CHANCE...
GIVEN HIM THE FEVER... BUT I
COULDN'T RISK BEING CAPTURED!

NOW I HAVE NO CHOICE
BUT TO ENDURE THE
PAIN... TILL I FIND
ANOTHER VICTIM!

STILL I HAVE NO RIGHT
TO COMPLAIN... FOR IN
MY VANITY, I BROUGHT
THIS ON
MYSELF!

PERIODICALLY A TERRIBLE
FIRE RAGES WITHIN ME...

... AND UNLESS I RELIEVE
THE PRESSURE BY
TRANSMITTING THE
FEVER TO SOMEONE
ELSE...

IN SEEKING
TO CURE MY LIFE-
LONG UGLINESS, I
ACCIDENTALLY INFLECTED
MYSELF WITH AN UNKNOWN
DISEASE!

"... THE
OVERWHELMING
AGONY
THREATENS TO
TEAR MY SKULL
APART!!"

SUDDENLY, THE ROAD
BEFORE CLAYFACE VEERS
SHARPLY TO THE RIGHT--

-- BUT HIS CAR, UNFORTU-
NATELY, DOES NOT!

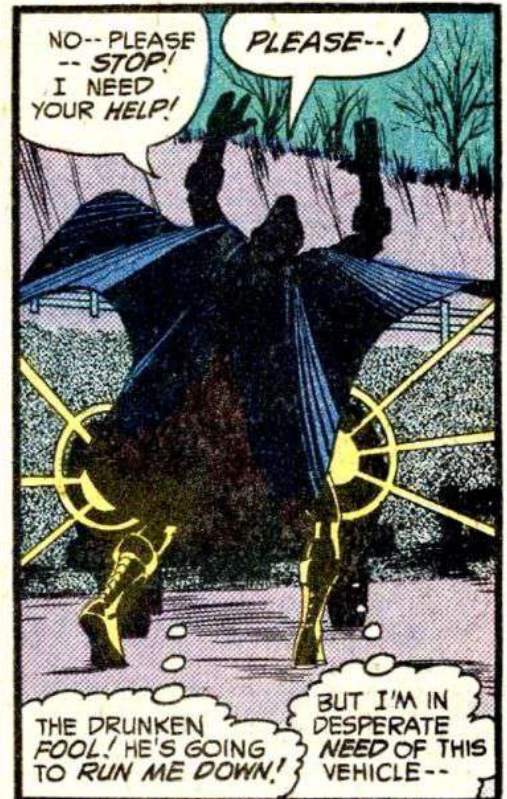
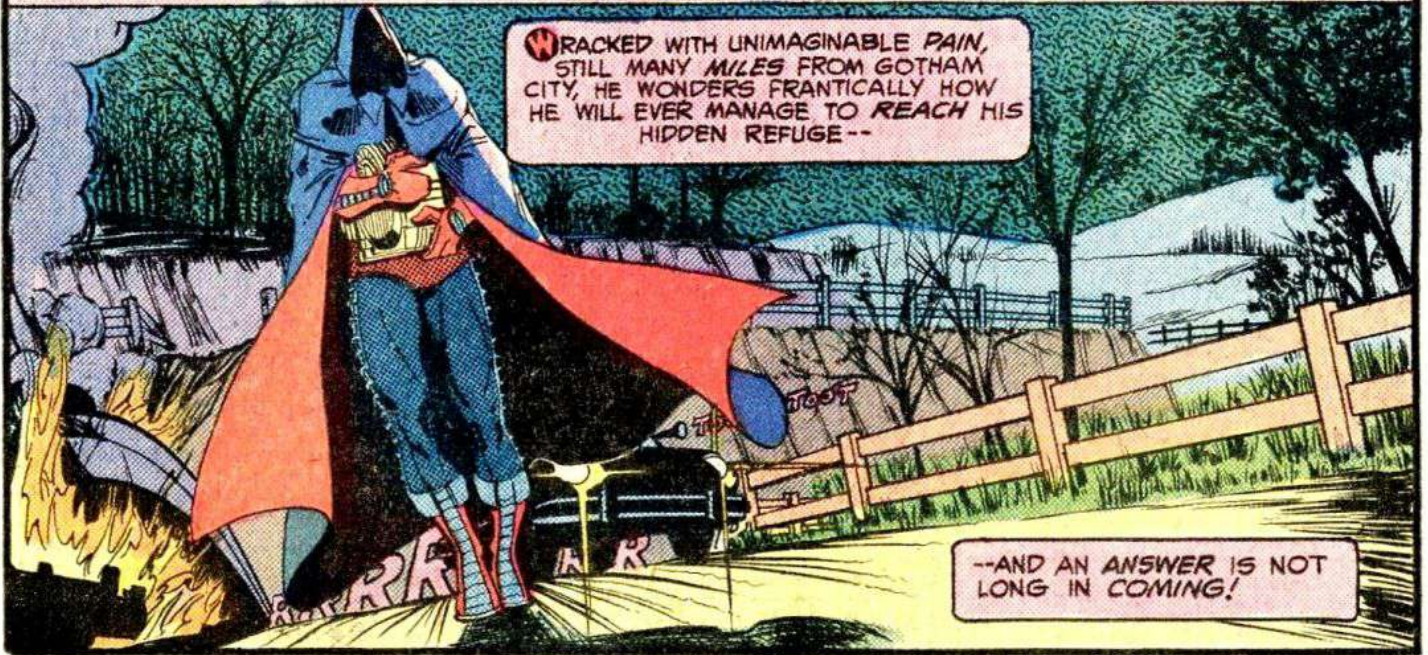
THE CRASH...
STARTED A FIRE...

ONLY A MATTER OF TIME
... BEFORE IT REACHES
THE GAS TANK...

HAVE TO PROTECT THE
MECHANISM... GET IT
AWAY FROM
HERE...

... BEFORE MY WHOLE
WORLD GOES UP IN
FLAMES!

HIS PRECIOUS PARCEL CLUTCHED TIGHT AGAINST HIS CHEST, THE CLAYFACED CREATURE WHO HAD ONCE BEEN PRESTON PAYNE LUMBERS OFF ALONG THE ROADWAY...



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.





THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING-- IN THE HEART OF GOTHAM CITY...

BRUCE WAYNE'S SECRETARY HAS WORKED LATER THAN USUAL TONIGHT, RETYPING VARIOUS REPORTS, WADING THROUGH HER EMPLOYER'S DAILY MOUNTAIN OF CORRESPONDENCE.

SHE IS JUST PACKING HER PURSE TO LEAVE--

--WHEN SHE HEARS...

...THE ELEVATOR? NOW--?



GOOD EVENING.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE BRUCE WAYNE, PLEASE.



I--I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID MISTER WAYNE LEFT FOR THE DAY... SEVERAL HOURS AGO!

OF COURSE, I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT--!

MAY I TELL HIM WHO WAS CALLING, PLEASE?



NO...

...I RATHER THINK NOT.



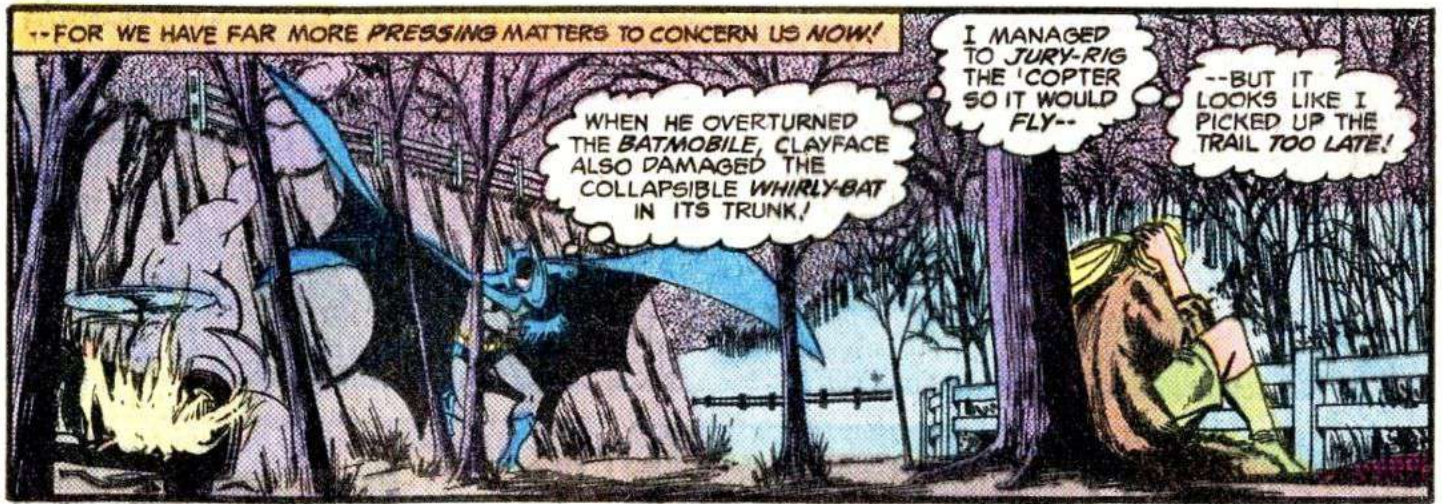
I'LL COME BACK SOMETIME SOON...

WHEN MISTER WAYNE IS IN.



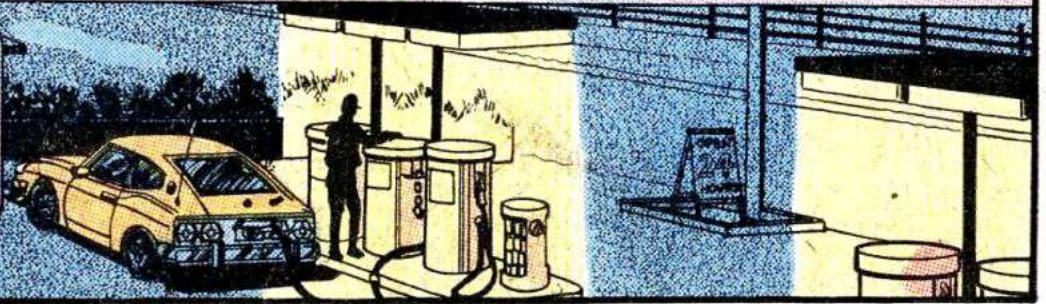
I'D PREFER MY VISIT TO BE A SURPRISE!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE IDENTITY OF THIS MYSTERIOUS CALLER MUST WAIT UNTIL A NEAR-FUTURE ISSUE OF BATMAN--



AND WHILE THE MASKED MANHUNTER SEES HIS STILL-TREMBLING CHARGE TO SAFETY, OUR DRAMA MUST PROCEED WITHOUT HIM FOR THE NONCE...

SAL MENKIN HAS WORKED THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT HERE AT ARNIE'S ALL-NIGHT GASARAMA FOR MORE THAN A MONTH NOW--AND FRANKLY, HE'S SICK OF IT!



CONTRARY TO ARNIE'S POLICY, SAL HAS NOT OFFERED TO CHECK HIS LATEST CUSTOMER'S OIL OR CLEAN HIS WINDSHIELD--AND HE'S GLAD HE HASN'T BEEN ASKED!

ALL SAL REALLY WANTS RIGHT NOW IS TO PUT IN HIS TEN HOURS--COLLECT HIS PAY--AND GRAB A GOOD DAY'S REST!

WHAT HE'S GOING TO GET IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER!

THAT'LL BE EIGHT-FIFTY, M...

...M...

...M...

M-MY SWEET HEAVEN!

YOUR FACE--!! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR FACE--?!?

YOU FOOL! GET AWAY FROM ME!

AND THIS TIME, SAL MENKIN WASTES NO TIME IN COMPLYING WITH HIS CUSTOMER'S WISHES!

HELLO, GOTHAM CITY POLICE?

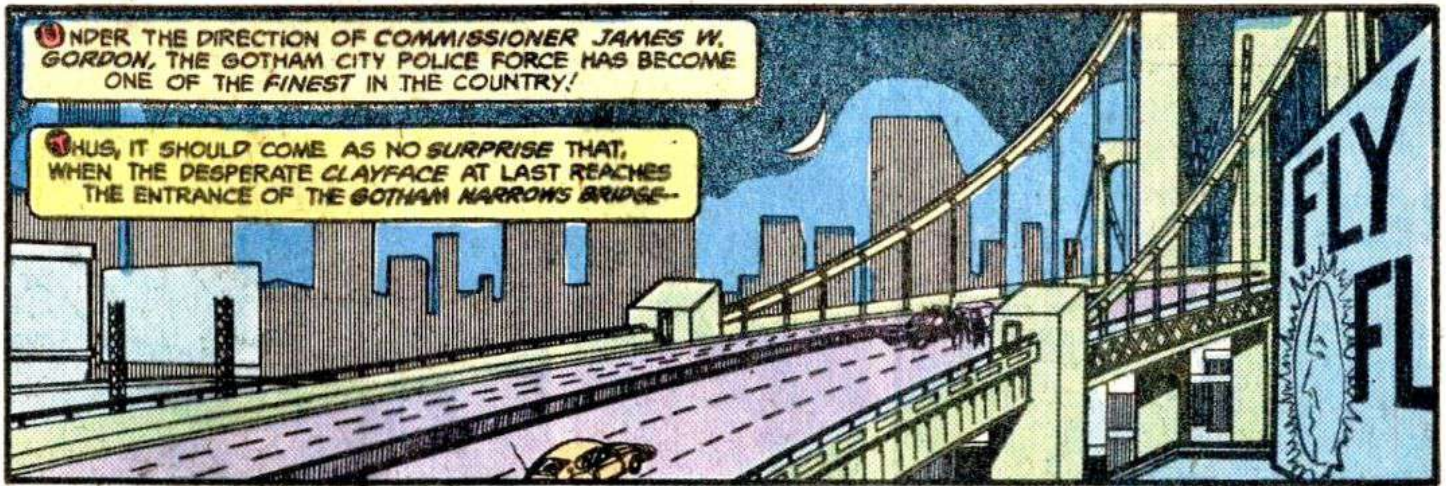
YOU AIN'T GONNA BELIEVE THIS-- BUT I JUST SAW ME A MONSTER!

NO, I AIN'T BEEN DRINKIN'! I SAW A MONSTER, I TELL YA--

--WITH A FACE LIKE DEATH WARMED-OVER!

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF COMMISSIONER JAMES W. GORDON, THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE FORCE HAS BECOME ONE OF THE FINEST IN THE COUNTRY!

THUS, IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT, WHEN THE DESPERATE CLAYFACE AT LAST REACHES THE ENTRANCE OF THE GOTHAM NARROWS BRIDGE--



--THEY ARE WAITING!!

CAREFUL, MEN! FROM THE PUMP-JOCKEY'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CAR, THIS MUST BE OUR QUARRY!

DON'T WORRY, COMMISSIONER! NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF MONSTER HE IS, WE'LL TAKE HIM!



THE POLICE! IF THEY STOP ME, I'M FINISHED!

I'VE GOT TO GET PAST THEM--



--OR DIE TRYING!!

PROTECT YOURSELVES, MEN!



THAT LUNATIC IS GOING TO RAM US!!

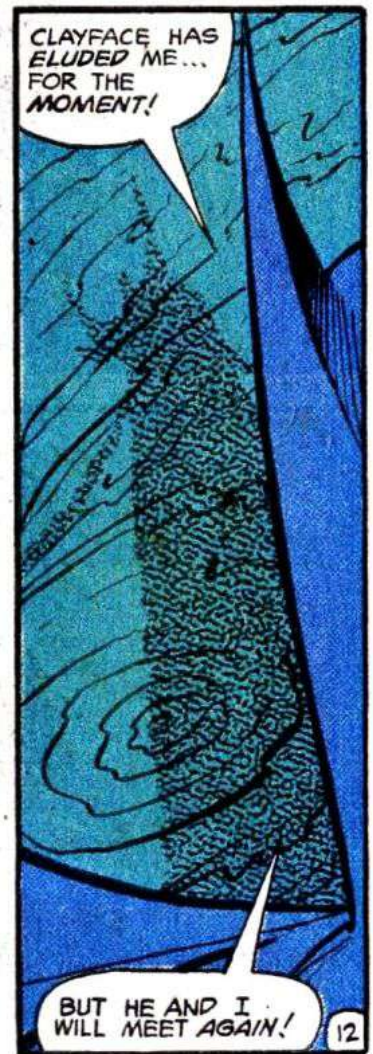
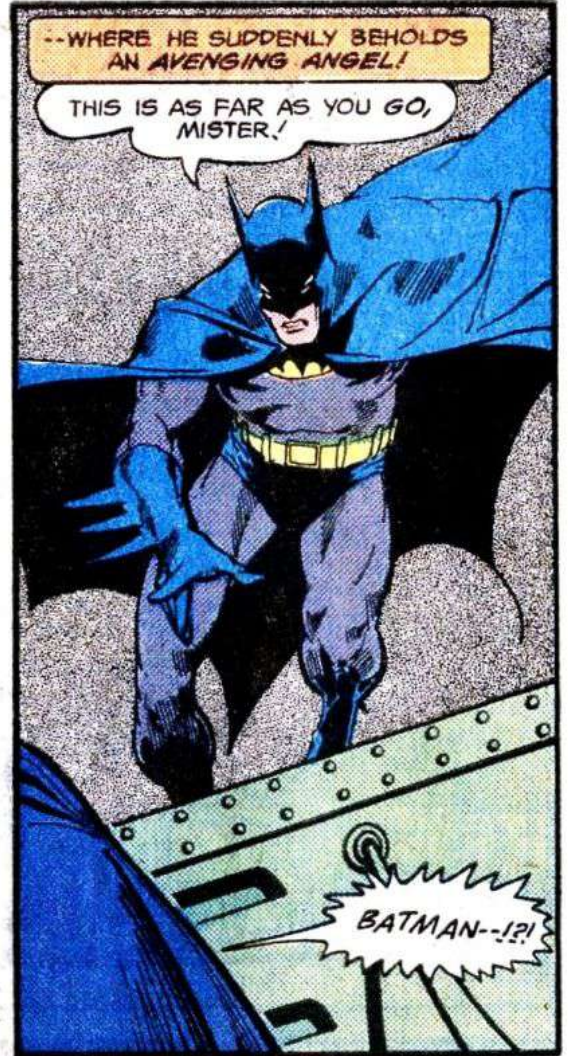
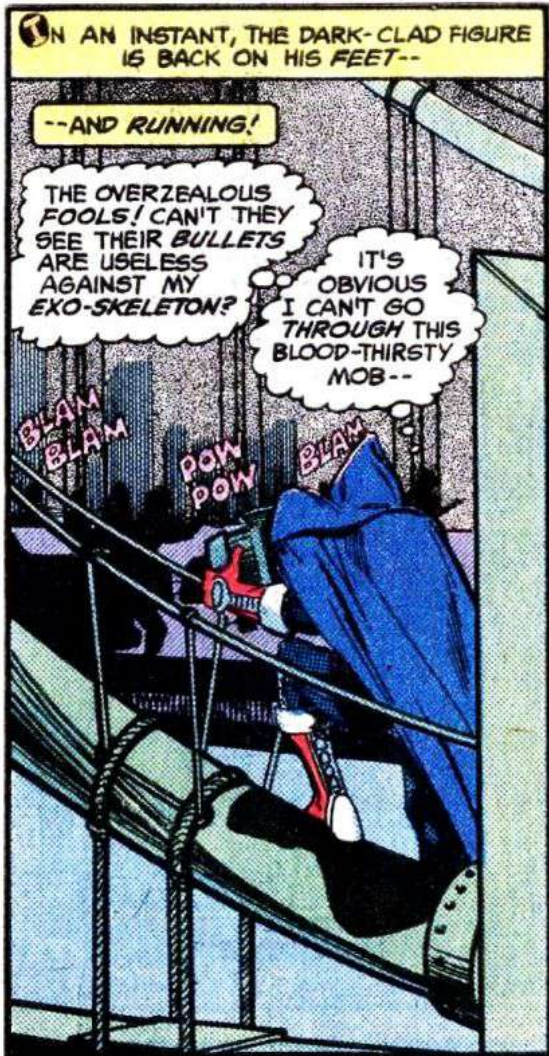


THEY'VE LEFT ME NO OTHER CHOICE!

UNLESS I CAN RETURN TO MY HIDDEN LABORATORY WITH THIS SPECIAL MECHANISM--



--I WILL LOSE MY FINAL CHANCE OF EVER AGAIN BECOMING HUMAN!





ON THE DARKLING HOURS BEFORE DAWN, THIS TENEMENT-STREWN NEIGHBORHOOD ON GOTHAM'S LOWER WEST SIDE IS VIRTUALLY DESERTED, WHICH IS PROBABLY JUST AS WELL--

--FOR THUS, THERE IS NO ONE TO HEAR THE FAINT HUM OF ELECTRONIC MACHINERY EMANATING FROM BENEATH THIS ABANDONED WAX MUSEUM--



--AND THUS, CLAYFACE CAN GO ABOUT HIS BUSINESS UNDISTURBED!

SOON, MY SWEET HELENA-- IF THIS MECHANISM WORKS AS I BELIEVE IT WILL-- I SHALL BE NORMAL AGAIN!

THEN, DEAR HELENA, I WILL BE ABLE TO LOVE YOU AS YOU DESERVE TO BE LOVED!

THE WAXEN FIGURE DOES NOT REPLY-- AND CLAYFACE DOES NOT NOTICE!



IN JUST A MOMENT, SWEET HELENA, THE MECHANISM WILL BE ACTIVATED, AND THEN...



NOTHING!

NO! SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG!

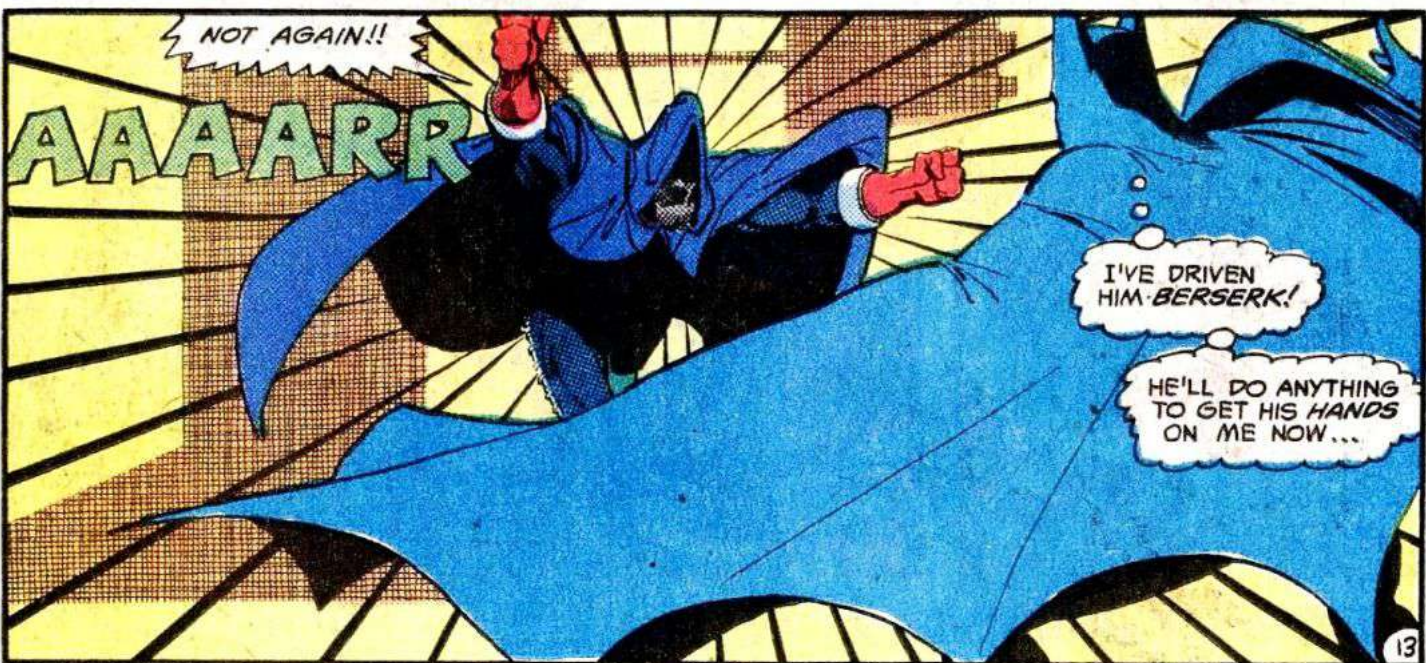
THE POWER--! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE POWER?!



DO YOU THINK THIS MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT?

I UNPLUGGED IT WHEN I CAME IN!

NO! NOT AGAIN--!



NOT AGAIN!!

AAAARRR

I'VE DRIVEN HIM BERSERK!

HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET HIS HANDS ON ME NOW...



...AND I'LL DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT IT!!

NO!



NOOOOO!



HELENA--?

OH, MY POOR, SWEET HELENA.

I'LL MAKE HIM PAY FOR HURTING YOU, MY DARLING!



I SWEAR...

I'LL... MAKE... HIM... PAY!!



HAVE TO STRIKE FAST-- AND HARD--

--TRY TO KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE!



"AGAINST SOMEONE AS STRONG AS CLAYFACE, IT'S THE ONLY CHANCE I'VE GOT!"



CURSE YOU, YOU'VE DESTROYED EVERYTHING--

--MY MACHINERY-- MY LAST HOPE OF BEING HUMAN AGAIN--!

NOW I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU!!

I'VE HEARD THAT LINE BEFORE, FRIEND--

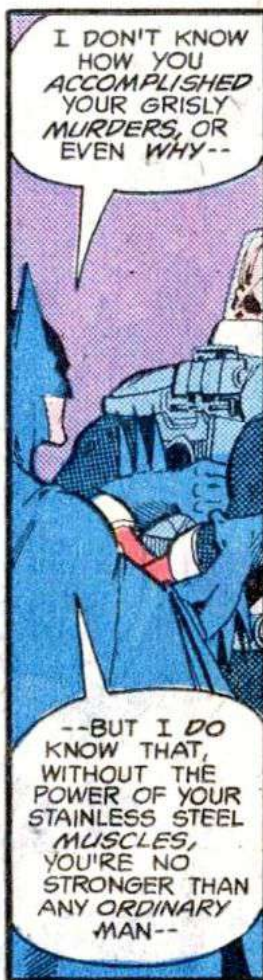




IT'S OVER,
CLAYFACE!

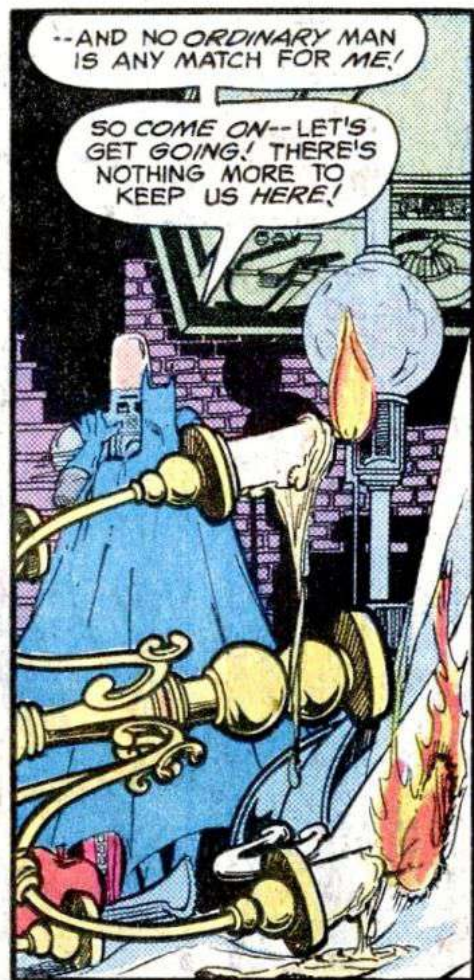
ALL THE KILLING--
ALL THE INSANITY--!

IT'S
FINALLY
OVER!



I DON'T KNOW
HOW YOU
ACCOMPLISHED
YOUR GRISLY
MURDERS, OR
EVEN WHY--

--BUT I DO
KNOW THAT,
WITHOUT THE
POWER OF YOUR
STAINLESS STEEL
MUSCLES,
YOU'RE NO
STRONGER THAN
ANY ORDINARY
MAN--



--AND NO ORDINARY MAN
IS ANY MATCH FOR ME!

SO COME ON-- LET'S
GET GOING! THERE'S
NOTHING MORE TO
KEEP US HERE!



WELL, WELL--IT
APPEARS WE HAVE
A WELCOMING
COMMITTEE!



OH-- IT'S
YOU,
BATMAN!

CAUGHT
ANOTHER ONE'A
THEM
SUPER-VILLAIN
TYPES, EH?

OKAY, WHO'S
MESSING
AROUND IN...?



I'LL TELL YA, I DON'T
KNOW WHAT US EVERYDAY
JOES WOULD DO WITHOUT
YOUR --

CRIPES!
WILL YA
LOOK AT
THAT!?



THE WHOLE
BLAMED
WAX MUSEUM
IS ON FIRE!



NO! MY
PRECIOUS
HELENA IS
STILL
INSIDE!!

SHEER, UNMITIGATED TERROR
COURSES THROUGH CLAYFACE'S
MISSHAPEN FRAME--



--AND WITH A SUDDEN, SAVAGE SURGE OF ADRENALIN...

HAVE FAITH, MY LOVE-- I'M COMING FOR YOU!

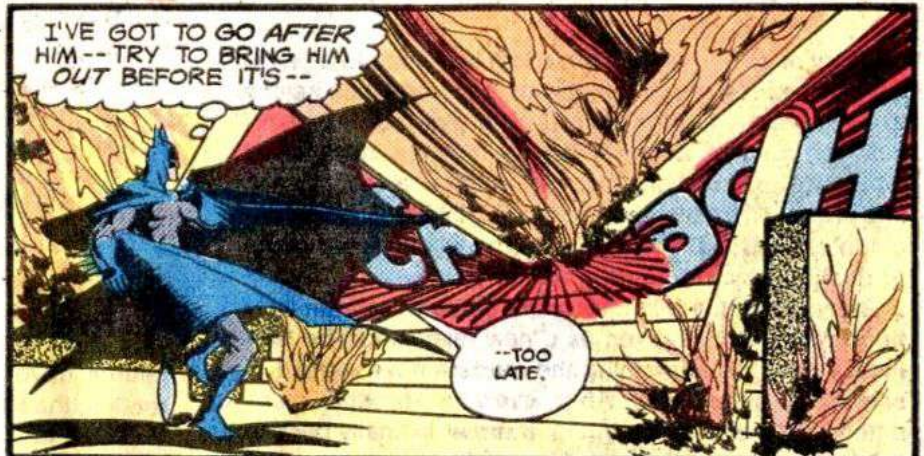
DO YOU HEAR ME, HELENA--



--I'M COMING!



HE'S GONE COMPLETELY OFF THE DEEP END!



I'VE GOT TO GO AFTER HIM-- TRY TO BRING HIM OUT BEFORE IT'S--

--TOO LATE.



FOR AN INTERMINABLE MOMENT, THE BATMAN STANDS FIRM--

--STRUGGLING TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT HE DARE RISK GOING INSIDE--



--AND THEN, IN A VIOLENT PAROXYSM OF FLAME AND SCREAMING RUBBLE--

--THE DECISION IS TAKEN OUT OF HIS HANDS!



IT IS DAWN BY THE TIME TWO SEPARATE ENGINE COMPANIES FINALLY SMOTHER THE LAST LICKS OF FLAME...

DESPITE HIS CRIMES, CLAYFACE SEEMS LIKE A TRULY TRAGIC FIGURE--SACRIFICING HIMSELF FOR LOVE OF A WAXEN DOLL!

I ONLY WISH WE KNEW MORE ABOUT HIM-- BUT PERHAPS WE WILL AFTER THE AUTOPSY!



SORRY, BATMAN, BUT THAT GUY YOU SAID DIED IN THE FIRE--

--WE COULDN'T FIND A TRACE OF 'IM WHEN WE SIFTED THE ASHES!



YOU WERE SAYING, BATMAN--?

NOTHING, COMMISSIONER!

NOTHING AT ALL!

THE END